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**POP ON FRIDAY**  
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## Police use new powers against IRA

# Anti-terror search zones are enforced

By RICHARD FORD AND NICHOLAS WATT

POLICE are to stop and search pedestrians in parts of London over the holiday weekend, taking full use of their new powers rushed through Parliament this week amid fears of IRA terror attacks.

The clampdown came as the IRA ended hopes of a new ceasefire by warning that they would pursue undaunted their campaign of violence — a message described by one minister as “threatening people so that they have to look over their shoulder all through Easter”.

The threat was reinforced by Gerry Adams, who said that everyone had to live with the reality that the ceasefire had ended. “Therefore one could hear on the next news broadcast reports of some IRA operation,” the Sinn Féin president told a Belfast press conference.

The IRA’s traditional Easter message was issued only hours after new anti-terrorist laws passed through Parliament and received the Royal Assent on Wednesday night. The police and security services are on alert as the republican movement prepares to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising on Sunday.

Mainland forces have received intelligence warnings of possible IRA attacks using small incendiary devices and the Metropolitan Police have already made parts of the capital “special designated areas” under the new legislation, so that officers can stop and search pedestrians.

Extra police will be patrol-

ling the streets of London over the weekend, there will be parking restrictions in some areas and more people are expected to be stopped to deter the terrorists. Police sources refused, however, to identify any part of the capital which had been designated a “special area”. Officers are under no obligation to tell people that they are being stopped under the new terrorist law, although they must inform them within 12 months why they were searched.

The IRA’s message, published in the Sinn Féin newspaper *An Phoblacht*, said that it remained ready to assist moves towards a “meaningful negotiating process” on the future of Northern Ireland, but it insisted that its “mandate for armed struggle derives from Britain’s denial of the fundamental right of the Irish people to national self-determination and sovereignty”.

Baroness Denton, the Northern Ireland Economy Minister, denounced the statement as condemning people to spend the holiday weekend looking over their shoulders. She urged republican leaders to have the courage to accept that there was a different way — and try it.

But Mr Adams said that there was little chance of a renewed ceasefire yet. “The IRA ended its cessation, regrettably, on 9 February,” he said. “There is nothing to suggest that it is just going to do a total about face.”

Earlier he said that the statement reflected the reality of the situation in a very clear

way. “On the one hand, the IRA is re-stating its position on what has happened to date. And on the other hand, it is taking a more positive attitude in terms of what is possible in the future. I think it is not all doom and gloom.”

John Hume, the Social Democratic and Labour Party leader, also said that he found positive elements of the statement encouraging.

But Unionists said it meant the ceasefire would not be restored before all-party talks are due to begin on June 10. Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionists’ security spokesman, said that the hard line taken by the IRA was a reflection of their lack of electoral support. “They are lost because they don’t have an agenda that can be met through the democratic process.”

Niall O’Dowd, the Irish-American publisher who played a key role in mediating between Sinn Féin and the White House, warned the IRA that it would lose American goodwill forever if it failed to restore its ceasefire. He said a full scale terrorist campaign would turn the Republicans into “eternal outsiders”.

His comments came as President Clinton’s Administration maintained intense pressure on Sinn Féin to call on the IRA to restore the ceasefire. Jean Kennedy-Smith, the US ambassador to Dublin, and Nancy Soderberg, a director of the National Security Council, have both met senior Sinn Féin members to press the point.



A crowd of young girls gathers outside the Amstel Hotel in Amsterdam yesterday where Take That were due to embark on a canal trip

## Idols bow out to beat of breaking hearts

By JAMES LANDALE  
IN AMSTERDAM

IN THE end, Take That bowed out of the music scene exactly as they had come in — surrounded by hundreds of screaming girls.

Gary, Mark, Jason and Howard yesterday made their final appearance together when they recorded a valedictory performance to be broadcast tonight on Dutch television.

The Manchester teen idols broke up as one of the most successful British pop groups, with 12 Top Ten hits, including

eight number ones, since they started in 1990. *Take That’s Greatest Hits*, released last month, has already sold 600,000 copies.

Tearful adolescent girls who have been following their heroes on the last leg of their European tour gathered in the Netherlands for the final goodbye.

Outside the television studio, in a quiet Amsterdam suburb, hundreds of girls gathered yesterday afternoon hoping for a glimpse of their idols. Security was tight and all nearby trees had been covered in black paint gel to

stop the girls climbing them. Only 220 were fortunate enough to have tickets.

Just as the band reached the emotional climax of the evening, with a rendition of their current single, the sound system failed. When the backing track failed, Gary Barlow spontaneously began singing their current hit *How Deep Is Your Love*. Soon the rest of the band gathered round to join him softly, and before long fans in the studio audience were singing along too — those who weren’t crying. The boys then hugged each other and left. “It was not unlike

any other Take That performance,” said Kate Thornton, 23, editor of *Smash Hits*.

Outside the girls continued to scream. Anna Brown, 17, a student nurse from Surrey, said she had been following Take That since they arrived in Brussels earlier in the week. She missed them there, caught up with them at Leuven in Belgium before coming up to Amsterdam.

She said her mother had paid for her £120 plane ticket but she had also spent a further £150. “I think my dad thinks I’m a bit mad but my mum has got used to it,” she

said. “My sister thinks I’m crazy but then she is quite young.”

After the recording was over, three large blue buses picked up the red-eyed girls to take them back to the centre of Amsterdam. They sat in the bus listening to Take That’s final radio interview during which one of the boys raised the prospect of a comeback in ten years’ time. “Wouldn’t it be brilliant if we could get back together again,” he said.

The bus erupted and the girls found hope once more.

Bereft fans, page 3

## US minister’s body recovered

The bodies of the American Commerce Secretary, Ronald Brown, and 34 other victims of Wednesday’s Croatian air crash have been recovered from wreckage in mountains southeast of Dubrovnik. Rescue workers took five hours to find the US T-43 plane, which had split into several pieces. Page 15

## Gun charge in Unabomber case

A former university teacher was arrested yesterday at his remote cabin in Montana by American police investigating the so-called Unabomber. Ted Kaczynski, 33, was later charged with illegal possession of a firearm. An FBI agent testified that he found a partially completed bomb at the cabin. Page 14

## Dress bill bars way for envoy Princess

By ALAN HAMILTON

SENIOR Foreign Office officials are blocking the Princess of Wales’s ambition to become an ambassador for Britain because of an £80,000 clothes bill she presented to them after an official Gulf tour ten years ago. It is claimed today.

Whitehall sources have told *The Times* that the Princess has lost important allies as she seeks to assume a roving and semi-official diplomatic role. There was never any question of the Princess having full diplomatic status, but some MPs and senior civil servants have been sympathetic to the idea of giving her an informal and occasional overseas role.

The Prince and Princess undertook a 16-day tour of Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia in 1986 when they were regarded as the most glamorous couple on Earth. Mindful of strict Islamic dress codes — as well as the fact that she was then the most

photographed woman in the world — the Princess spent months assembling a wardrobe from the top designers of the moment, including Catherine Walker, Jacques Azagury and Paul Costello.

Buckingham Palace said last night that it was usual for the Foreign Office to pay a proportion of the cost of official royal visits abroad, although they had no knowledge of the figures involved in the Saudi tour. The Princess’s spokeswoman said: “It was a long time ago, but it was a very special occasion and a long trip.”

During the visit the Princess received a number of lavish gifts from her oil-rich hosts, including a diamond necklace and earrings set said at the time to be worth more than £100,000. The jewellery remains her private property.

Sue Cameron, page 15

## SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



Alan Jackson meets kd lang, in the *Magazine*  
Easter house-hunter’s guide, in *Weekend Money*  
The £100 prize jumbo crossword, in *Weekend*  
Holiday TV and radio, in *Vision*

## Promise of sun for holiday

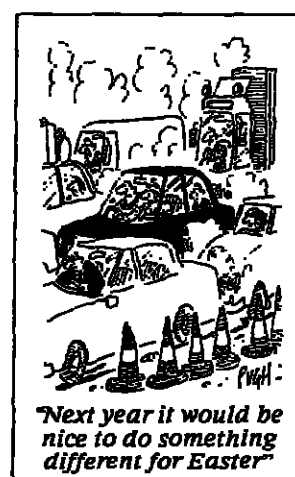
By PETER FOSTER

BRITAIN will be enjoying the first taste of spring this Easter Bank Holiday after the coldest and gloomiest March for nine years, the London Weather Centre predicted last night.

The weekend should be sunny and temperatures are expected to rise to a more respectable 12C (54F).

Road congestion had been less severe than expected, AA Roadwatch said last night. By mid-afternoon the usual blackspots northbound on the M25, M5, M6 were experiencing long queues, but these had cleared by nightfall.

More than one hundred thousand people will head for the mountains of Scotland. Rail passengers faced lengthy delays caused by engineering works. The worst affected services will be those passing through Chippenham, Wiltshire, on the main InterCity line to the West Country, all



“Next year it would be nice to do something different for Easter”

those departing from London Bridge, and services between Manchester and Stockport.

In the next seven days nearly 500,000 passengers will fly from Heathrow with the biggest rush expected at the end of next week, while Gatwick expects to handle 380,000 passengers over the Bank holiday — a 15% increase on last Easter. About 100,000 passengers will be travelling through the Channel Tunnel.

Forecast, page 22

## Poole, poised to take football’s lowliest prize

By WALTER GAMMIE

POOLE Town stand on the threshold of a place in *The Guinness Book of Records* as the least successful club side in the history of British football.

If they are defeated by Bassetford tomorrow in a Beazer Homes League Southern Division match, they will have lost their fortieth game in a row and will displace Stockport United, a

Stockport League side, whose record has stood since 1977.

Clive Robbins, the chairman, thinks it unlikely that Poole can avoid the ignominious distinction. “We’ve been playing a 15-year-old and a couple of 16-year-olds,” he said. “It’s like a team from the YMCA playing Liverpool each week.”

In 34 league defeats, Poole have scored 12 goals and conceded 145.

Sixty-six players have shared in the suffering, including seven goalkeepers, the latest of whom, Jamie Smith, has taken a pounding for the past 15 matches. Their leading scorer is Lee Webb, who joined from Salisbury, rattled in four goals in nine matches and returned to his former club.

Robbins resents the “worst team” label. “They’ll be good players — hopefully for us — but no matter how

talented, it’s hard to come straight out of school and run out the same evening onto a football pitch with some 6ft 7in centre half trying to kick you into the stands.”

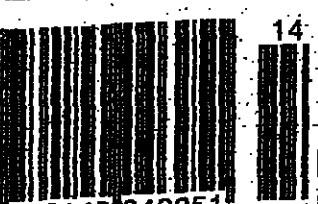
The Dorset FA now wants them to leave their Nursery Ground home. Mark Willis, the secretary, said: “The results aren’t the issue. What is important is that Poole Town FC kicks off next season.”

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## Ministers misjudging mood of the country, say grammar school staff

# Teachers oppose further selection

By JOHN O'LEARY  
EDUCATION EDITOR

THE union representing the largest number of teachers in selective schools urged the Government yesterday not to press ahead with plans to reintroduce selection throughout England. Delegates to the annual conference of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers voted overwhelmingly to oppose the establishment of more grammar schools and the introduction of partial selection within the comprehensive system. Government proposals will be set out in a White Paper in June.

Peter Smith, ATL general secretary, said ministers were misjudging the mood of the country and ignoring the impact on millions of children by backing further selection. An opinion poll commissioned by the union put

selective schooling tenth in a list of priorities for improving education and was supported by fewer than half of those questioned.

Mr Smith said the Prime Minister's enthusiasm for selection was motivated by opportunism, as his advisers sought to make political capital from the controversy over the choice of schools made by Tony Blair and Harriet Harman. "Mr Major thinks his policy unit have delivered him an ace, but what the polls show is that the ace is low, not high."

A Harris poll taken last month showed that over 60 per cent of adults felt Ms Harman, the Shadow Health Secretary, had made the right choice in sending her son to a grammar school. A second poll showed that 46 per cent of voters favoured selection, but almost twice as many were concerned about discipline in

schools; better resourcing was also a higher priority.

The ATL has almost 900 members in grammar schools and 16,000 in the independent sector, making it the main voice of teachers in selective schools. Although the conference in Torquay was careful not to undermine the position of the 160 remaining grammar schools, delegates committed the union to a campaign opposing any extension.

Martin Kamm, who teaches at John Taylor High School, in Lichfield, Staffordshire, said he had seen children underachieving in second modern schools and could not support a two-tier system. "They are second-rate schools as far as parents and children are concerned."

Stephen Woodley, a teacher at the Independent King's School, Canterbury, said secondary moderns could

be made to work if they were given sufficient resources and support. "I think we need in this country to be prepared to emphasise a certain degree of diversity. I would prefer the process to take place at 14, but at the moment the best option in many areas is selection at 11."

But Pam Bryan, who works at Newcastle-under-Lyme assessment centre in Staffordshire, said: "I know how it feels to fail the 11 Plus. It left me scarred, and I still have those feelings today."

Mr Smith said the Government was trading on nostalgia for an education system that failed the majority of pupils. The apparent growth in support for selection was a "proxy" for public concern over educational standards. Grammar schools were seen as disciplined, well-focused institutions, Mr Smith

said. "In some cases that was not quite the reality, but in many people's minds, comprehensive schools have come to be characterised equally misleadingly as Grange Hills."

Robin Squire, the Schools Minister, said the establishment of a limited number of grammar schools would not necessarily lead to the return of secondary moderns in every area. The Government wanted to extend selection in order to give parents more choice.

Mr Smith said he was convinced that the comprehensive system worked. "There is an element of desperation in the Government's plans. They have pressed every button they can, but they have not convinced the electorate that they are investing enough in education."

Leading article, page 19



Great escape: travellers at Newcastle Airport yesterday as the bank holiday exodus got under way. Heathrow is expecting 500,000 passengers in the next week and Gatwick 380,000 over the weekend. Easter travel, Page 1

## Clarke says economy will win by-election

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH CLARKE raised the political stakes for next week's South East Staffordshire by-election yesterday by directly linking the result to voters' confidence in the economy.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer swaggered into Tamworth yesterday claiming that a tide of economic optimism would sweep the Conservatives to their first by-election victory for seven years.

With Jimmy James, the Conservative candidate, trailing behind Labour in the polls Mr Clarke confidently dismissed predictions that the odds were stacked heavily against his party holding the seat. "Blow the odds. Just look at the reality," Mr Clarke said.

However, it was the Chancellor's bullish remarks over the economy that attracted most attention during a four-hour visit to the ancient town. "I think Jimmy James should be the first beneficiary of the feel-good factor coming back into the Midlands now."

Mr Clarke refused to concede that next Thursday's by-election would come too early for voters to feel any benefit from tax cuts introduced in last November's budget. Although the tax changes, which Mr Clarke claims will make the average family £9 a week better off, come into effect this weekend, they will not percolate through to most people's pay packets until next month.

But an ebullient Chancellor was undeterred. "1996 will get better as it goes on. We are still only in April and Saturday's tax reductions are the first big

event for ordinary households this year economically." He added: "The general election could be as far away as next May. We have a long period in which the economy can continue to revive. It is important that the economy is going to carry on growing and people get more prosperous."

Mr Clarke was hesitant, however, when put on the spot about whether the economy was improving. Lady Lightbown, widow of Sir David Lightbown, the former Tory MP whose death last December prompted the by-election, asked the Chancellor: "Do you feel the feel-good factor coming?" Mr Clarke's less than forthcoming response of "Do you?" caught Lady Lightbown off-guard. "Well, I do, yes," she said.

As Mr Clarke glad-handed the shoppers of the Arkerside centre, he found that voters were more cautious in their optimism about the economy. Although several shopowners said that business had picked up in recent months, many people made clear their continuing fears about unemployment and job instability.

The Chancellor's assessment of the economy was savagely attacked by Brian Jenkins, Labour's candidate, who claimed that voters had suffered 22 tax rises over the past three years. "He has betrayed people here by promising them year-on-year tax cuts, then forcing them to foot the bill for Tory economic failure," Mr Jenkins said.

As the by-election campaign enters its final week, tensions between the two main candidates were intensifying, with Mr James accusing his Labour rival of arrogance in stepping down from his leadership of Tamworth Borough Council. Labour campaigners argued that Mr Jenkins had relinquished his leadership so that he could concentrate on the by-election and, if necessary, the general election.

Although Labour believe that support has moved steadily towards the party during the last three weeks, strategists recognise that there are rural parts of the constituency so solidly Conservative that they are unlikely to shift.

□ General election 1992: D.L. Lightbown (C) 29,180; B. Jenkins (Lab) 21,988; N. Penlington (Lib Dem) 5,540. Majority 7,192.



Clarke swaggered bullishly into town

## Dunblane gym to be demolished

By BILL FROST

THE gym at Dunblane Primary School where 16 children and their teacher were shot dead last month is to be demolished next week while pupils are away for Easter.

The site is to be planted with bulbs in memory of those who died when the gunman, Thomas Hamilton, went on a ten-minute rampage.

The Prime Minister, visiting Dunblane after the killings, said that the gym should go. However, the decision was deferred while the views of bereaved parents were sought.

Gordon Jeyes, Stirling Council's director of education, last night appealed to the media to stay away while the demolition took place on Wednesday.

A council spokeswoman said the school board and the parent-teachers association had been consulted but the views of the bereaved were the most important.

Seven members of the local community are to be selected as permanent trustees of the Dunblane Fund, which stands at £708,000.

## Tesco hires staff to pack bags and unload trolleys

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE Tesco supermarket chain is to appoint 4,500 extra staff, most of whom will be part-time, to help customers with their shopping.

They will join 500 employees already in the company's 545 stores as "customer assistants", unloading trolleys, packing bags, fetching forgotten items, replacing damaged goods, answering queries and noting suggestions. More than 1,000 Tesco office staff were moved into the company's stores yesterday to help with the pre-Easter rush. Sir Ian MacLaurin, the company chairman, lent a hand at the Brent Cross store in north London and board members were deployed in other stores.

Terry Leahy, the company's deputy managing director, said the scheme had been on trial in nine stores since last summer. "Customers said what a difference it made. We have decided to spend £20 million this year delivering a new standard of customer care."

Rival companies said that they had already taken initiatives which put their standards of service ahead of

Most major oil retailers have followed the supermarket chains by raising the price of petrol by 2p a litre, blaming rising wholesale prices for what is claimed to be a temporary halt to the price war. Esso, which does not operate a national pricing policy, said it would be adjusting its charges according to changes by its competitors. Shell said it was continuing at price war levels.

Tesco's Sainsbury's said: "Tesco's new appointments must be largely part-timers. Last year we spent £30 million improving service in our 360 stores, and that included the appointment of the equivalent of 2,500 full-time staff. All our staff are already trained to help in all the ways Tesco are suggesting."

Ian Black, of Somerfield, said: "Customer assistants sound a good idea and very American. At our 610 stores, customers only have to ask any member of staff for assistance and whatever they want will be done."

Sue Finnegan, of Asda, said:

"Our new customer service initiatives have created over 5,000 jobs in the past year, and there are a further 1,000 recruits to find."

The company's new appointments include 2,000 "greeters" and more than 1,500 "runners", many of whom use roller-skates to fetch forgotten items from the shelves while the rest of the shopping goes through the checkout.

A spokesman for Sainsbury's said: "We have staff in our stores to help with packing bags at the end of aisles when required, and any shopper needing assistance has only to alert any member of staff who will be happy to volunteer their services."

□ Sainsbury's announced an arrangement with the Automobile Association yesterday to provide a free breakdown service for customers at its stores.

Terry Wells, customer services director, said: "Our customers will get instant and free help if they break down, and we will keep their shopping cold while the car is attended to."

Weekend shopping, page 8

## Four women named among 66 new QCs

The Inns of Court were awash with champagne yesterday after the announcement of 66 new Queen's Counsels. The new silks were appointed from 488 applications, of which 40 were women and 14 were from ethnic minorities. Of the successful applicants, four are women and one is from an ethnic minority.

The new Queen's Counsels include Lord Meston, Liberal Democrat spokesman on legal affairs. Six honorary Queen's Counsels were also announced, including Dr David Thomas, an authority on sentencing who condemned the Government's sentencing plans this week as a "recipe for chaos". Others included Michael Blair, legal adviser with the Securities and Investments Board, who is the Bar Council treasurer.

## Four accused of kidnap

Four men accused of kidnapping the Greek shipping magnate George Frangistas and demanding a ransom of up to £5 million were remanded in custody at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court in London. Mr Frangistas, 43, was rescued by police from a house in Bayswater on Tuesday. The accused are two Greeks, Konstantinos Korkolis, 39, and Thanassis Zografos, 24, and two Frenchmen, Marco Meren, 36, and Djemel Moussaoui, 33.

## Police shooting inquiry

Scotland Yard yesterday launched an internal investigation after a man brandishing a replica Uzzi machine pistol was shot three times by police. Robin Smith, 32, was shot when he confronted officers from an armed response unit as they left a flat in Battersea, and as he was carried into an ambulance he shouted "It's a replica." Last night he was said to be stable and comfortable at the Chelsea and Westminster hospital.

## Cervical cancer hope

Women whose cervical smear tests show mild abnormalities may be able to reverse the changes by giving up smoking, a study of 82 women by Imperial Cancer Research Fund scientists has shown. Such cervical changes can progress to cancer, though in 40 per cent of cases they return to normal without treatment. After six months, 80 per cent of the 28 who had quit or cut their smoking showed a reduction in the size of the abnormal area.

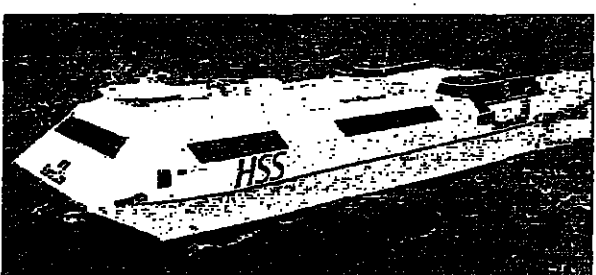
## Coroner admonished

The Lord Chancellor has formally admonished Peter Brunton, Coroner for Ceredigion, Dyfed. Mr Brunton, a solicitor, opened the inquest into the death in 1989 of Jeremy Turner, a climbing instructor with a company called Celmi Experience. The company was also a client of Mr Brunton, but he did not transfer the case to another coroner until more than a month later. Mr Brunton attended the second inquest as the company representative.

## Council for Edinburgh

Seven hundred years after the election of Edinburgh's first Provost, a new city council was inaugurated yesterday — the first time Scotland's capital has had a single body to represent it for 20 years. The new Lord Provost, Eric Milligan, of the Labour Party, was formerly convener of Lothian Regional Council, which, with Edinburgh District Council, ceased to exist on April 1 under the reorganisation of local government.

## High-speed ferry delay



The world's biggest high-speed ferry, due to enter service last month across the Irish Sea between Holyhead and Dun Laoghaire, will not carry passengers until after the Easter holiday, Stena Line said yesterday. The delayed start for the £65 million catamaran, above, designed to carry 1,500 passengers and 375 cars at 40 knots, has been caused by work on an emergency escape chute. A safety certificate is expected to be issued in the next few days.

## 'Professional' jurors

Six convicted men have been told they may appeal against their convictions after an inquiry by the Court Service found that the jurors trying their cases were relatives or friends of court staff. The inquiry into the use of "professional" jurors at Stoke-on-Trent found that on five occasions a total of seven jurors, including relatives or friends of members of court staff, were summoned by the use of incorrect procedures.

## Free holiday money

Thomas Cook will be offering £100 spending money to families who book a holiday through its travel agency chain this weekend. The company said it wanted to avoid giving a straight discount by offering a more creative way to attract customers. The conditions are that two adults book a holiday lasting more than five days. The money, which can be in any currency, will be handed over once the holiday is paid in full.

## Supervirus 'could destroy humanity'

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE human race is more vulnerable to a catastrophic outbreak of infectious disease than most people realise, the Edinburgh Science Festival was told last night.

Dr Cedric Mims, recently Professor of Microbiology at Guy's Hospital Medical School in London, said it was only a matter of time before one of the thousands of viruses in the air mutated into a supervirus, capable of killing millions, despite modern drugs.

Such a catastrophe could be caused by something as simple as a virus changing the way it is transmitted. "The HIV and rabies viruses are currently transmitted by saliva and body fluids, but could

change at any time," he said. "Viruses are changing their methods of transmission and we don't know why."

If HIV did mutate into a form where it could be passed on in the air, he estimated that an outbreak could spread through the entire country within one or two weeks. "We need a much greater understanding of what sort of mutations would produce a microbe of this sort, capable of spreading fast and killing or incapacitating more than half the world's population."

He said that the problem tended to be ignored. "Most research is involved with finding vaccines or cures. I would like to see a bit more research on transmission of viruses."

## Cash for jails should be spent on crime fighting, says police chief

By RICHARD FORD  
HOME CORRESPONDENT

A CHIEF constable attacked the huge cost of Michael Howard's sentencing proposals yesterday, declaring that the money should be spent on putting more police on the beat and on crime prevention.

Tony Leonard, Chief Constable of Humberside, broke ranks with other senior officers and publicly condemned the plans as the Home Secretary visited his force.

It had been revealed that 25 jails would need to be built during the next 15 years to meet the rise in the prison population. They will be built and managed by the private sector at an estimated cost of £6 billion, paid back by the

taxpayer over 25 years. Mr Leonard joined penal reform groups in criticising the huge cost of implementing the proposed new sentences which will add a minimum 10,800 to the jail population by the year 2013. He said that the cash the Government was preparing to pour into building jails would be better spent on extra policing on the streets.

Mr Leonard, who was showing the Home Secretary the force's modified high-performance cars, said: "It is going to cost an awful lot of money in terms of building new prisons. I would rather see that money ploughed into policing and preventing crime."

The chief constable also said that mandatory minimum

sentences for repeat violent and sexual offenders and people convicted of three or more domestic burglaries were wrong: "I agree with the Lord Chief Justice in that I don't think Parliament should set minimum sentences."

The law should set maximum sentences and should trust the judiciary to implement sensible arrangements as to the length of the sentence," he said.

Mr Leonard, 57, a sociology graduate from the London School of Economics, has been chief constable of Humberside since 1992.

The Government's plans have won the support of the Police Federation, representing rank and file officers, and the Police Superintendent's

Association although the Association of Chief Police Officers, representing senior officers, is unwilling to become involved in the argument.

Richard Tilt, the new £70,000 a year director-general of the prison service, disclosed yesterday that 25 new jails will be needed during the next 10-15 years to cope with the rising prison population.

He said: "We shall have an argument about precisely how much money we need but the White Paper commits the Government to providing additional resources and I am confident that is a firm commitment." The service could not manage the rise in the jail population without additional cash, he added.

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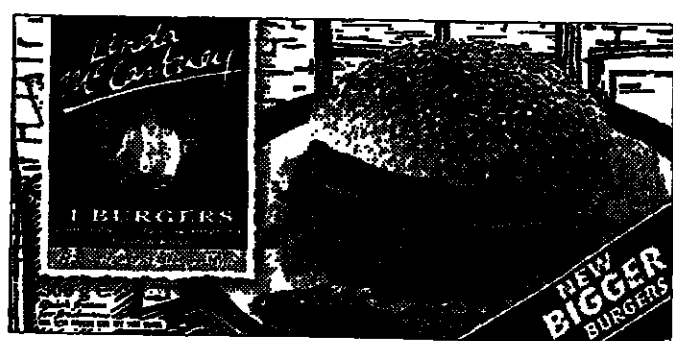
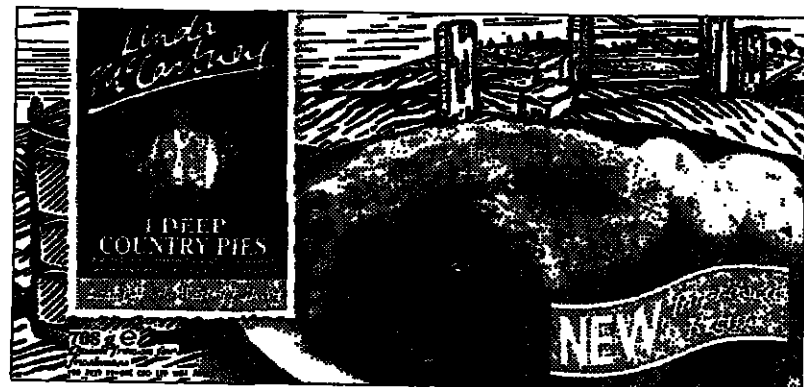
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**BY ALICE THOMSON  
POLITICAL REPORTER**

Queen Elizabeth I opening a session of Parliament  
in the original Palace of Westminster

BY ALICE THOMSON

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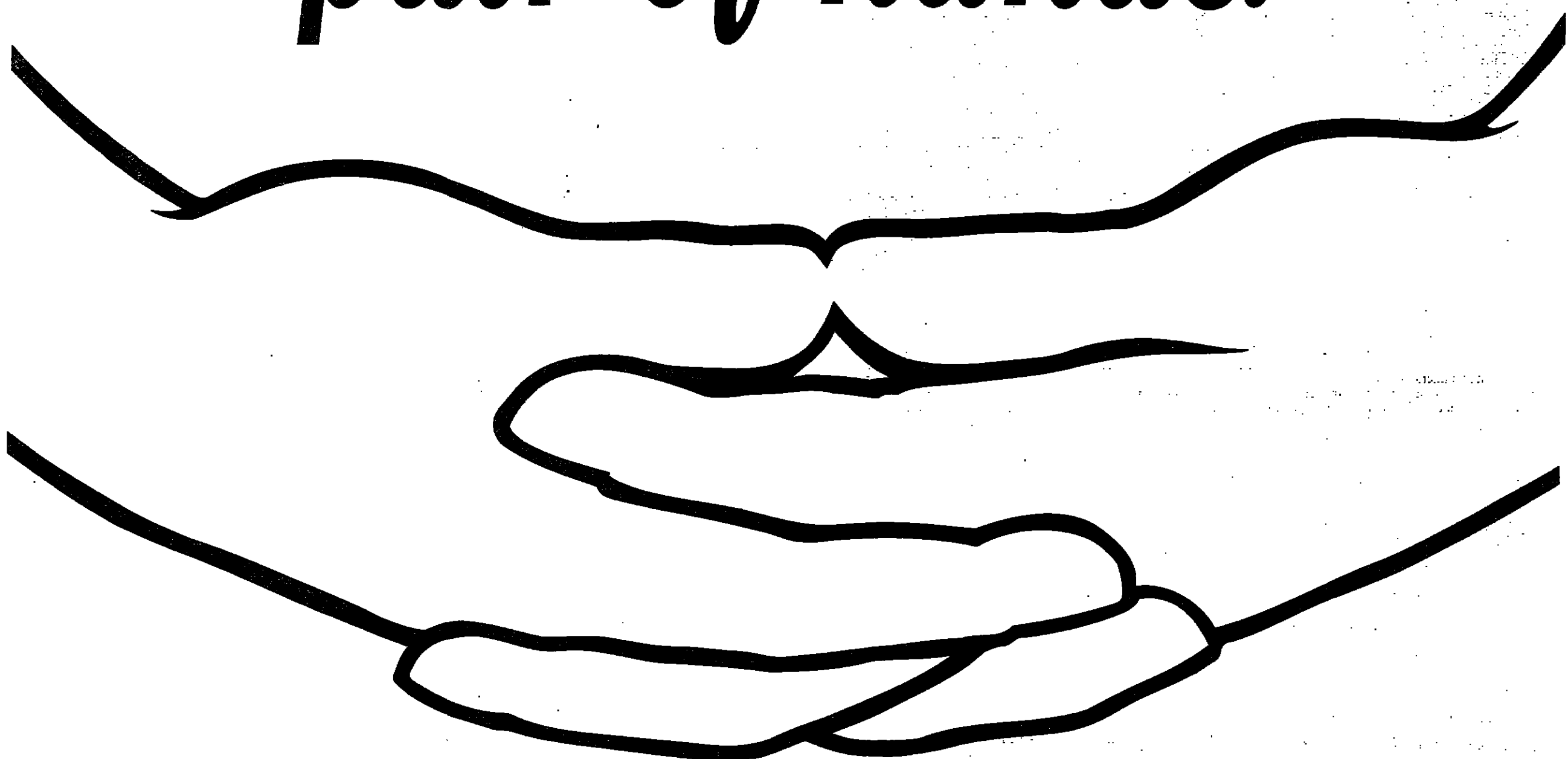
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# Psychiatrists wake up to the healing power of hypnotism



more imaginative the patient the more likely they may be given hypnosis. These patients are seen by a consultant psychiatrist at the Charter Nightingale Hospital in London. Finds that hypnosis helps patients who have a wide variety of phobias, from claustrophobia to a fear of flying, to those who have anæsthesia. It is also valuable in treating people who have intractable pain.

Dr Craft said: "Hypnosis is useful in selected cases. I am, however, careful not to use it with psychotic patients. It seems that hypnosis sometimes enhances paranoia and all too often I can become part of the delusion."

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# Dead boy's organs help eight

## Whisky ashore

A container loaded with £500,000 of whisky that was washed overboard from a ship last October off Drigg Point, Cumbria, has broken open. Bottles of scotch are being sold for £5 in Fleetwood.

## Hope for eagles

The only pair of breeding golden eagles in England had two eggs yesterday in their eyrie near Haweswater, Cumbria. The birds, a pair for 14 years, are being guarded by RSPB wardens.

### Damages award

Thomas Shiner was awarded £4,000 damages by Liverpool County Court for physical and psychological injuries caused by "excessive force" in police use of thumb locks for restraint.

## Bardic enterprise

Lawrence Shoen, who runs the Klingon Language Institute, in Philadelphia, has translated *Hamlet* into "Klingon", the language spoken by Captain Kirk's foes in *Star Trek*.

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'We emphasise we do not have direct evidence of such a link and other explanations are possible'

## Scientists explain why they linked CJD to 'mad cow' disease

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

EXPOSURE to the agent that causes "mad cow" disease is "perhaps the most plausible explanation" of the ten cases of the human brain disease CJD which sparked the beef crisis. According to the scientists who identified the ten cases, further cases are likely if there is such a link.

Dr Robert Will of the National CJD Surveillance Unit at the Western General Hospital in Edinburgh and colleagues, reporting in *The Lancet*, provide the first full explanation of why they concluded that BSE was the likeliest cause of the ten cases. Not only was the course of the disease longer and the victims younger than usual in CJD, but the changes to the brain were "so consistent that neuropathological samples are virtually indistinguishable".

For nine of the ten cases,

detailed histories enabled other risk factors to be eliminated. None had been treated with human growth hormone, a known source of CJD, and none had had a blood transfusion. None had worked on farms with livestock, although one had taken an annual holiday on a farm with a dairy herd with no record of BSE. One had worked as a butcher, while another had visited an abattoir for two days.

They all shared a highly unusual pathology with large "plaques" of the abnormal prion protein, which is believed to cause the disease, appearing in their brains. Eight of the victims — four males and six females — had died at ages ranging from 19 to 41. Two patients, aged 18 and 31, remained alive. Among the relatively few cases among young people outside the UK

— 14 — brain plaques are described in only one.

The paper says that while the new cases could not be regarded as proof that BSE had been transmitted to humans, "the observation of a potentially new form of CJD in the UK is consistent with such a link". The scientists acknowledge that they do not know why the new strain has been found only in people under 45.

They conclude: "We believe that our observation of a previously unrecognised variant of CJD occurring, to date, only in persons under the age of 45 years is a cause for great concern. That it is due to exposure to the BSE agent is perhaps the most plausible interpretation of our findings. However, we emphasise that we do not have direct evidence of such a link and other



One man's meat: Dave Hodgson, a butcher in Jarrow, leaves little doubt about his faith in home-grown beef

explanations are possible." In a commentary in the same issue of *The Lancet*, Dr John Collinge of St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, and Dr Martin Rossor of the National Hospital for Neurology and

Neurosurgery warn that over-concentration on beef may be a mistake. "Sheep, pigs, and chickens have also been exposed to BSE and scrapie-contaminated feed," they say. "While there is no evidence of

natural transmission of BSE to these species, it would be prudent to remain open-minded about dietary exposure." A similar point has been made by Dr Paul Brown of the US National Institutes of

Health, an expert on CJD. "I still doubt these human cases are coming from cattle," he told *New Scientist*. "It could be there is no epidemic and you have to file the cases as unusual and unexplained."

## Bid to turn cattle into electricity

By NICK NUTTALL

A POWER company that turns chicken manure into electricity offered yesterday to do the same with the meat and bonemeal from BSE-infected cattle.

Fibrowatt runs power stations in Suffolk and Lincolnshire and is building another in Norfolk. When the third is complete, the firm will be able to produce electricity for about 60,000 homes.

The rendered wastes from cattle, however, would have far more energy per tonne than chicken manure. The Government studied such a scheme in 1991, but it was dropped partly because of fears that not enough cattle waste was available. With up to 15,000 BSE-infected cattle facing slaughter every week, a steady supply now seems more assured.

Roper Fraser, managing director of Fibrowatt, said yesterday that he was keen to discuss a rescue plan with the Ministry of Agriculture and the meat industry.

## Germans rule out early end to ban on British beef

By PETER BILD IN BONN AND MICHAEL HORNSBY

BRITAIN'S hopes of getting the European Union ban on beef exports lifted within a few weeks were dealt a blow by the German Agriculture Minister yesterday. "Nobody seriously thinks the ban could actually be lifted in six weeks," Jochen Borchert told a radio interviewer.

The worldwide ban imposed last month was recommended by the EU's standing Veterinary Committee on March 20 after Germany had already declared its own ban on British beef products. The EU ban is due to be re-examined on May 8.

With no sign of the crisis abating, the French agriculture ministry announced yesterday that it would withdraw from sale offal from cattle born before July 31, 1991.

Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, confirmed yesterday that he was looking at ways of eliminating animals most likely to be incubating new cases of BSE. British farmers reacted furiously to the demand by EU states for a widespread cull as the price for lifting the ban.

Anthony Gibson, southwest regional director of the National Farmers' Union said: "If the Ministry of Agriculture were to try to do that, they would find their way literally barred. Farmers have been ringing us and saying, 'If they try to shoot my cows, they will have to shoot me first.'"

John Major tried last night to shore up the position of his

beleaguered Agriculture Minister after renewed speculation about his future.

Interviewed on Radio 4's *The World at One*, Mr Hogg failed to deny unequivocally claims that he had offered his resignation in the wake of the "mad cow" scare. The Prime Minister's senior officials then disclosed that Mr Major had invited Mr Hogg to Downing Street on Wednesday night for a "chat and a pat on the back" after his rumbustious Commons performance earlier in the day.

Under the Luxembourg deal struck earlier this week, Mr Hogg is required to come up with proposals for a selective cull by April 30. Among the possible options is the slaughter all herds which have ever had a case of BSE. The French adopted this approach in the dozen or so French herds that have had BSE. It is brutally effective but would wipe out millions of healthy animals.

Slaughtering all herds with more than a certain number of BSE cases would be a more targeted and less costly variant but it would still involve wasteful killing. There is no guarantee that incidence of BSE would be greatly reduced. BSE is not contagious. Slaughtering groups of susceptible animals rather than whole herds has support from farmers. Clusters of BSE cases tend to be found in groups of animals of same age which were reared together and fed same rations.

## Prices rise again as sales recover

### WEEKEND SHOPPING

SUPERMARKETS were preparing for increased sales of British beef yesterday, claiming that confidence was returning to the market.

Asda, which has been selling beef with about a third off normal prices throughout the BSE scare, said: "Our butchers have been up all night preparing for the Easter rush. That is a signal that things are returning to normal."

Sainsbury's, which returned to pre-scare prices last Tuesday after four days selling all fresh beef at half price, said its sales had now reverted to 30 per cent of normal trading.

Easter has become one of the supermarkets' busiest weekends, but while most shops now open on Good Friday all large stores in England and Wales will be closed on Easter Sunday in conformity with the Sunday Trading Act 1994.

Promotions include:

- Asda: fresh beef topside/silver-side with basting fat £4.17 a kg, fresh chicken Kiev £1.59 for 284g.

- Budgens: breaded plaice fillets £1.99 for 320g, baby new potatoes 95p for 680g, size 4 fresh eggs £1.66 for 24.

- Co-op: fresh duckling £4.79 for 1.8kg, frozen New Zealand lamb steaks £1.59 for 280g, broccoli spears £1.49 for 907g.

- Harrods: new season Indian mangoes £12 a kg, Indian white eggs £1.30 for six.

- Iceland: North Atlantic prawns £3.49 for 400g, part-

- boned chicken breasts £5.99 for 2.3kg, whole green beans 99p for 907g.

- Marks & Spencer: New Zealand lamb leg knuckle £4.99 a kg, lemon sole goujons £2.99 for 255g, frozen haddock in breadcrumbs £3.99 for 600g, fruit salad £1.99 for 600g.

- Morrisons: Mowbray family pork pie 85p, Coudron vegetarian sausages 89p for five, McCain salmon fishcakes 95p for eight, oysters 29p each.

- Safeway: smoked Scottish salmon £5.99 for 450g, British ham on bone 99p a ¼ lb, white seedless grapes 65p a lb, pure orange juice £1.39 for 2L.

- Sainsbury's: unsmoked gammon joint £4.29 a kg, packed whole salmon £4.79 a kg, New Zealand lamb half leg £2.99 a kg, cucumbers 99p each.

- Somerfield: select lamb chops £3.65 a kg, fresh chicken drumsticks £2.69 for 1.2kg, mixed peppers £1.19 a pack, baking potatoes £1.98 for 2.5kg, Golden Delicious apples 99p for 12.

- Tesco: fresh whole standard turkey £2.18 a kg, haddock fillet £1.98 a lb, whole salmon £1.97 a lb, black seedless grapes 89p a lb, Golden Delicious apples 49p a lb.

- Waitrose: Scotch roasting beef topside/silver-side £2.49 a lb, Aberdeen Angus rib £2.69 a lb, Scottish smoked salmon £3.99 for 180g, Sweet Treasure honeydew melon £1.39 each, vine tomatoes 99p for seven.

ROBIN YOUNG

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**WITHOUT WALLS** The award-winning arts series continues with a three-part essay by Gore Vidal examining the American Presidency and investigations into the Elgin Marbles, Buddy Holly, Lad Culture and Classic Cop Shows. Tuesdays at 9.00pm.

**RORY BRENNER...WHO ELSE?** A new series of Rory Bremner's BAFTA Award-winning comedy that takes a satirical dig at topical personalities. Fridays at 10.30pm.

Catholic demand footwas

2014/04/05



# Catholic women demand part in footwashing ritual

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN protesters sang hymns and washed each other's feet outside the doors of a Roman Catholic cathedral yesterday after being told that they would be excluded from its Maundy Thursday footwashing ceremony on the orders of the Vatican.

The Catholic Women's Network singled out Cardiff after the Archbishop, the Most Rev John Aloysius Ward, sent a letter to the diocese's 120 priests forbidding them to wash the feet of women in church. The diocese had sought guidance from Rome after a lay person complained that a priest unofficially included women last year.

Worshippers arriving for Mass at the cathedral yesterday were met with a large banner proclaiming: "Wash women's feet too".

As the Archbishop conducted his service inside, almost 40 women held their own ritual on the pavement, producing a

wooden chair, a bowl and a jug of water. They handed out leaflets and tried to argue their case with local clergy attending the Archbishop's service. Several priests avoided the demonstration by using a side entrance, but others signalled their support for the women.

One protester, Dr Elizabeth Stewart, a lecturer in theology at Glamorgan University, said: "What kind of message is it giving women when they are banned from footwashing as a symbol of discipleship? It is turning it into a symbol of male power."

Sheila McBride, of South Shields, who travelled to Wales for the pavement service, said most Catholic dioceses were more enlightened and included women in the footwashing ceremony: "Just because the 12 Apostles were men it should not mean the exclusion of women in this day and age."

Ann Farr, of Coventry, spokeswoman for the Network, said: "To exclude women turns the whole Maundy Thursday tradition into a symbol of exclusion and division."

One protester, Sister Myra Poole, a member of the Notre Dame de Namure religious order and a convert from Anglicanism, said: "This is symptomatic of the Catholic Church's dislike of women. They say one thing and do another."

Father John Lloyd denied that the footwashing service inside the cathedral later in the day would ignore the role of women. "The diocese is simply following Vatican instructions," he said. While the Archbishop remained adamant that the Vatican injunction must be obeyed, some priests in Cardiff and elsewhere defied the ruling and washed the feet of women at services last night.

Last week the Pope called on Catholics to embrace a "new feminism" and to give women a more influential role in the church. Sister Myra said: "They say women are equal, but this is nonsense. The Church needs to be exposed for its double standards. We have got to break down this male structure. So many women are imprisoned by it."

The *New Catholic Encyclopedia*, in describing the ritual, cites a passage from 1 Timothy where St Paul refers to a widow "washing the feet of God's people".

Bishops recently voted to change the present Last Sup-



Protesters with their banner outside Cardiff Cathedral as clergy arrive for the ceremony. Later they held their own ritual on the pavement

## MAUNDY THURSDAY: IN THE STEPS OF THE DISCIPLES

The washing of feet on Maundy Thursday commemorates Christ's washing of the 12 disciples' feet during the Last Supper. In the heat of the Middle East, foot-washing was a physical necessity and a common courtesy offered to guests at feasts, usually carried out by a servant on both men and women. Christ's act was a demonstration of divine humility and a parable to his followers that they were the servants of those they taught.

The name of Maundy Thursday comes from a Latin line sung in Roman Catholic churches from St John's Gospel: *Mandatum novum* — "A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another." The ritual has been confined to men as all 12 disciples were male.

In the Roman Catholic church, the usual tradition is for the priest to wash the feet of 12 poor men, while the Pope washes the feet of 13 priests, one for each of the disciples and one for Christ. At Westminster Cathedral, Cardinal Basil Hume has washed the feet of 12 Chelsea Pensioners.

Medieval and Stuart monarchs in Britain would occasionally wash the feet of 12 subjects in a demonstration of humility. In many cases the barefoot poor were in fact the children of royal servants, well scrubbed beforehand.

## Kirk may give sanctuary to asylum seekers

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Church of Scotland is on a collision course with the Government over its decision to consider giving sanctuary to refugees facing deportation. The Kirk is calling on church members to oppose legislation that supports the current immigration system.

In a report by the Church and Nation Committee, which will be debated at the annual General Assembly in May, the Church criticises the Government for treating asylum seekers with "meanness, suspicion, injustice and hostility" and calls on it to change the practice of detaining refugees in prison.

There is a backlog of 70,000 refugees applying for asylum in Britain. Last year 1,295 were legally admitted.

The report calls the Government's so-called white list of safe countries "a blunt instrument to keep people out of Britain". It says: "The General Assembly should encourage church members to oppose legislation that supports this system."

Sir Michael Hirst, chairman of the Scottish Conservative Party, criticised the Kirk for "interfering in legal matters" and giving advice to congregations which could lead to them breaking the law. The report says: "The Church must support, help, befriending and, if necessary, defend asylum seekers needing sanctuary and so fulfil the law of Christ."

The Rev Andrew McLellan, convenor of the Church and Nation Committee, admitted that the report's recommendations could lead to congregations breaking the law, but denied the Church was interfering in state matters.

"I'm sure there will be conflict on this matter. Christians have a primary obligation to be obedient to the will of God as well as an obligation to the State. It has always been

the teaching of this Church that the will of God comes first."

Mr McLellan said the committee would ask the General Assembly to sanction guidelines that would involve churchgoers in giving shelter to deportees in their own homes or in a church building. He stressed that churches had no special dispensation and said that the authorities could well force entry to church premises to carry out the deportation order.

The report also calls on the Government to "fulfil its obligation to all holders of British Dependent Territory Citizens' passports in Hong Kong by returning them the right of entry and abode in the UK."

A spokesman for the Home Office said yesterday: "Each application for asylum is considered individually and measured against the international benchmark of the United Nations convention on asylum seekers."

"Only about 1.5 per cent of asylum seekers are held in detention and it is used sparingly. Only 4 per cent of asylum seekers who face deportation have the decision overruled on appeal."



Hirst: accused the Church of interfering

## Fishermen's tales face lie detector

By TIM JONES

ANGLERS hoping to net a record British cash prize for catching fish may have to take a lie detector test to prove they are not just spinning another yarn.

Before landing the £50,000 on offer they could be required to have their heart beat monitored and perspiration tested on a Polygraph operated by professional investigators.

The competition, open until December 1999, is for ten species caught with a new type of lure — a Rapala, which imitates a small fish. Claimant must supply good photographs and have their fish weighed in the presence of two witnesses.

John Mitchell, managing director of Normark Sports, the company putting up the money, said the lie test had been insisted upon by the insurance company underwriting the competition. He said: "If there is any doubt at all, we will insist they sit in front of the lie detector to have their reactions analysed."

Unfortunately, anglers do have a bit of a reputation for stretching the point and a small minority of them would be tempted to cheat to win such a big prize.

Ultimately, Mr Mitchell says he would rather rely on fair play than electronic gadgetry. "With some, it is not the money, but the chance for glory and the chance of getting into the record books."

Some of Britain's four million anglers had, however, gone to extraordinary lengths to win far more modest sums. Mr Mitchell said. There had been anglers who had bought their fish from shops weeks before an event took place and had been found out only when referees found the specimens presented for weighing were still half frozen. Others had made their fish heavier by stuffing lead pellets into their stomachs.

One angler secreted a huge eel, caught days earlier, into the hollow section of his fishing rod and slipped it into his keep net during a contest.



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# Gaddafi defies US threat to chemical weapons factory

By Christopher Walker, Middle East Correspondent

RENEWED tension is mounting between the United States and Libya after America's implied threat this week that it would use military force to destroy a chemical weapons factory being built south of Tripoli. The development has been described by the CIA's head as the world's biggest underground chemical weapons plant.

Yesterday the official Libyan news agency, Jana, dismissed as "lies and imaginary arguments" an assertion by William Perry, the US Defence Secretary, that Libya was building the plant near the town of Tarhunah and that the US would not rule out military action to prevent weapons being produced.

The US threat came during a visit to Egypt by Mr Perry, who showed President Mubarak detailed intelligence information to underline American concern about the plant, which US officials say is being built into a mountainside. "I discussed a variety of evidence we have," Mr Perry said after his talks. "They demonstrate that the Libyans are not now producing chemical weapons, but they have an extensive programme under way to develop a chemical weapons production facility."

According to *Time* magazine, only a direct hit by a nuclear warhead on the mountain's top could destroy the plant, although other US sources have said a commando-type operation was under consideration.

"Sneaking a conventional bomb through the front door would be impossible, and a precision-guided projectile fired from an attack jet or a cruise missile could never be programmed to twist and turn its way into the mountain's entrance and destroy the equipment inside," *Time* said.

US intelligence sources, who have code-named efforts to stop the plant going into production "Rabta-II Operation", say some equipment from the original Libyan chemical weapons factory at Rabta, 55 miles southwest of Tripoli, has been moved into the chamber. Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, shut Rabta in 1990 after Washington threatened to attack it with aircraft and publicly identified European companies that had provided equipment.

American officials travelling with Mr Perry said Rabta reopened last year and that Libya insists it is manufacturing only bona fide pharmaceuticals. The US claimed

that, until its shutdown, Rabta produced about 100 tonnes of mustard gas and nerve gas over two years.

This week Mr Perry would not say how close US intelligence believes the new plant is to going into production, claiming any forecast would reveal classified information. "It is not imminent," he told US military correspondents.

Jana, regarded as Colonel Gaddafi's mouthpiece, said: "The American war minister's statements came within the framework of the continuous American campaign against the Great Jamahiriya [Libya]. It alleged Mr Perry's comments were an 'aggressive provocation' and an attempt to fuel conflict between Egypt and Libya, described by the agency as 'brothers'."

The CIA director, John Deutch, testified recently to Congress that the new site was the largest underground plant of this type in the world. Some Washington reports say it is several thousand square feet.

Diplomatic sources said last night Washington had secretly been trying to get all foreign governments to halt the activities of companies involved in the plant's construction.



Erich Priebke, a former SS captain, leaves the military court in Rome, where he was ordered to stand trial yesterday on May 8, the fifty-first anniversary of VE-Day, for his role in the massacre of 335 Italians during the Second

## SS officer for trial

World War. When the ruling was announced, Herr Priebke, 52, "didn't blink an eye", said Pietro Nicotera, a lawyer for victims' relatives.

"The trial will demonstrate Priebke's responsibility," declared Antonino Intesano, the prosecutor. Velio Di Rezzo, for the defence, said

Herr Priebke believed the order to kill the civilians in the Ardeatine Caves outside Rome was a legitimate wartime reprisal for the deaths of German soldiers. Herr Priebke has admitted he killed two victims. (AP)

## Police in France accused of brutality

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

AMNESTY International, the human rights watchdog, accused French police of unlawful killings and unnecessary brutality yesterday and said there were long delays in bringing the officers involved to justice.

Jacques Toubon, the Justice Minister, met Hervé Berger, deputy general secretary of Amnesty International, this week to discuss the group's findings, the first time it has been received in France at a ministerial level.

A 40-page report on violence in the security forces was published by Amnesty in 1994. "So far the French Government has failed to make an appropriate response," an Amnesty spokesperson said. Yesterday M Berger expressed Amnesty's concern that the pattern of ill-treatment and killings was continuing.

"In 1994 we quoted 29 cases of judicial delays, 11 of which were for incidents involving firearms and the rest for beatings and ill-treatment. Of these 29, more than half, are still under investigation three years later," said David Braham, author of the report.

According to Amnesty, a case of particular concern is the death of Khaled Kelkal, the Algerian-born leader of an Islamic guerrilla group shot by police last September after a series of bomb attacks.

Amnesty also cited the death of an eight-year-old Serbian gypsy boy, Todor Bogdanovic, when police shot at his family's car on a favoured route for illegal immigrants.

The group also alleges that French courts drag their feet when it comes to bringing guilty officers to book. It took more than five years to sentence a police officer for beating up a Senegalese boxer and two years to sentence another for raping a Tunisian woman at the Italian frontier.

"Since 1989 we have been present in numerous countries in Europe which, like France, have experienced an increase in nationalism and xenophobia accompanied by a decline in tolerance. This translates into a resurgence of police violence," M Berger said in Paris yesterday.

## David Irving book cancelled

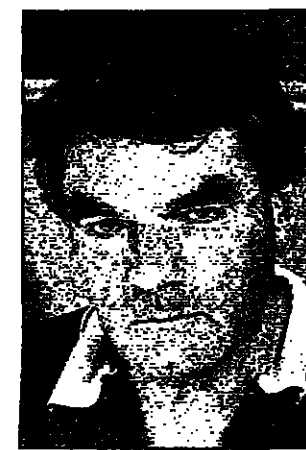
FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A NEW York publishing house has cancelled its edition of a biography of Joseph Goebbels by the controversial historian David Irving. The decision came after prolonged protests from Jewish pressure groups who described Mr Irving's views of the Holocaust as "repellent".

St Martin's Press, which had acquired the American rights to Goebbels: *Mastermind of the Third Reich*, explained that it was "unaware" of Mr Irving's reputation. He has, among other things, questioned the existence of gas chambers at some

Nazi concentration camps. When St Martin's announced last month that it had agreed a \$25,000 (£16,447) advance to Mr Irving, there was anger from New York's Jewish lobby. Elie Wiesel, a prominent Holocaust survivor, withdrew two book jacket endorsements he had made for titles published by the firm.

Thomas McCormack, the chairman of St Martin's, said: "We made a mistake. We sure wished we knew then what we do now." Mr Irving said yesterday: "I shall be taking legal action to try to enforce the contract."



Irving: views seen as "repellent" by critics

## Cyprus synod clears priest

FROM REUTER IN NICOSIA

THE Church of Cyprus said yesterday it had dropped charges of homosexuality against a priest whose trial last month sparked off rioting.

The Greek Orthodox Holy Synod said it had also lifted the suspension against Archimandrite Pangratios Meradlis, 39, imposed in early February. He is the people's favourite for the post of bishop in the northwestern Morphou district.

The priest, who has been elevated to near-martyr status by his followers, was charged with homosexuality by the synod last month. Thousands of his supporters clashed with police when he went on trial.

The issue nearly caused a split in the church when members of the synod disagreed with the way the archbishopric in Nicosia handled the matter. Under the terms of a deal, the priest will not, for now, be allowed to run for the bishop's post, elections for which has been suspended.

## Rightwinger seeks Spanish summit to end party feuds

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

AS THE recently elected conservatives try to form a government in Spain, one of the country's most respected political leaders has issued a veiled warning about the possible disintegration of the nation with the sort of growing inequality between regions that led to civil war in Spain 60 years ago and, more recently, in the former Yugoslavia.

Manuel Fraga, a founder member of the Popular Party (PP) that won the general election a month ago without a majority, is against the party favouring one nationalist bloc to the detriment of others as the government-in-waiting horse-trades for the votes it needs to govern.

Señor Fraga, a minister under Franco, has called for a meeting of the presidents of the 17 autonomous regions

that, along quasi-federal lines, were established under the 1978 Constitution. He is president of Galicia in the north-west and is opposed to the Catalans getting tax concessions and a further devolution of powers. "I will not agree to a new system of financing that benefits only a few," Señor Fraga said changes should not be decided in hasty bilateral negotiations between a government and one autonomous community.

José María Aznar, the PP leader, has been promised enough votes from regional nationalists for his investiture as Prime Minister. With 156 deputies in the 350-seat congress, the 16 votes of the Catalan nationalists, augmented by those from nationalists in the Canary Islands and the Basque country, are all important.

Jordi Pujol, the fiercely nationalist president of Catalonia, is demanding fiscal co-responsibility. He wants to raise and spend 40 per cent of income tax (the figure now is 15 per cent) and bring in more from VAT, and raise his own indirect taxes on fuel, alcohol and tobacco.

## Eta armoury revealed

BY EDWARD OWEN

THE recent arrest of a leading member of Eta has enabled police to discover that the Basque terrorist organisation was stockpiling an armoury in a family mausoleum near San Sebastián and had prepared a hit list of 196 people, mainly members of the security forces, and 495 other targets.

José María Atutxa, the Basque administration's councillor of the interior, said Eta had detailed plans on how to assassinate 23 people and had planned 22 attacks within the next few months. The documents were found after the

arrest last week of Valentín Lasarte, leader of Eta's Donosti, or San Sebastián, commando. He has now been charged with a number of killings, including those of two leading Basque politicians.

Subsequently, José Manuel Errazkin, a grave digger in Hernani, near the Basque resort, was charged with collaborating with Eta after the armoury, including two anti-tank grenades, rifles with telescopic sights and ammunition, were found in a mausoleum which had recently been opened for an interment.

## 'Last godfather' freed by Marseilles court

BY SUSAN BELL

IN A remarkable twist of judicial fate, Francis "The Belgian" Vanverbergh, the man known to police as "the last godfather of Marseilles", walked free from the high court in southern French port city yesterday after spending more than four years in prison awaiting trial on drug-smuggling charges.


"I had faith in my country's justice system. I have waited a long time for this moment. Now I can relax," said a visibly relieved Mr Vanverbergh, 50, as he left court after the verdict yesterday. Accused of smuggling 40lbs of heroin into the United States from Spain in 1985, he faced up to 40 years' jail if convicted. The Belgian is one of the last survivors of the

Mediterranean city's notorious "French Connection" era. He was first jailed at 18 when he received a 12-year sentence for his role in the international drug-smuggling ring which inspired the Oscar-winning film. Allegations against him since have included gangland killings, pimping and arms offences. For more than 20 years he was one of France's most wanted men.

Evidence in the case rested on the testimony of François Scapula, 50, a repentant Marseilles drug dealer and police informer who is serving a 20-year prison sentence. The court yesterday declared itself disinclined to trust Scapula's contradictory accusations. No drugs had been seized in connection with the case.

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'The lion and me are brothers. I am confused that I should leave this place'

# Bushmen fight to stay on in last Botswana haven

By LEYLA LINTON

A DWINDLING band of Kalahari Bushmen has appealed to the United Nations to save them from being evicted from their ancestral lands to make way for tourism.

John Hardbottle, a spokesman for the tribal group, who is half Khwe Bushman, half English, told Jose Ayala Lasso, the UN Human Rights Commissioner, that 3,000 Khwe Bushmen will be forcibly taken in cattle trucks from the Central Kalahari Game Reserve in summer.

The Bushmen will receive no compensation for leaving the third largest game reserve in Africa and will be dispersed hundreds of miles apart, according to Mr Hardbottle.

The Bushmen say they have lived in the desert of Botswana for 40,000 years. They claim they have a constitutional right to live in the reserve, which has become their last safe refuge as they have been driven from their traditional territories in Botswana.

Roy Sesana, leader of the Central Kalahari Game Reserve Settlements, said yesterday: "We are being chased away as if we are nothing. If

you look at the lion and you look at me we are brothers. I am very confused that I should leave this place and that my brother the lion should stay behind. We refuse to be moved. If we leave our land, we leave our life behind."

Mr Sesana said that the Khwe who lived on settlements, which the tribespeople call "places of death", were sometimes reduced to thieving and begging. "On the reserve I have space, seasons, the game," he said. He added that the Khwe would be content to stay in the game reserve and become involved in the tourist industry as long as they retained some control.

Mr Hardbottle, who will address the UN Commission on Human Rights again next week when it considers the question of the rights of indigenous people, wants the UN to send a team of observers to Botswana. He says that the Botswana Government, dominated by the Tswana tribe, violates the human rights of the Khwe.

Mr Hardbottle said the Bushmen suffered racism and discrimination from the Government. In the past Khwe people, including his own maternal grandmother, were used as slaves, he said. According to the tribal people, Khwe culture is denigrated, teaching the Khwe language is forbidden and Khwe communities are denied democratic representation.

Mr Hardbottle said: "It is time for our people to speak out for we, too, are a people. We have a right to land, to culture and to a life, as all others do." He has told the UN that the Government punishes the Bushmen who practise traditional hunting and gathering for food, water and firewood.

The Khwe are allowed special game licences, but there are numerous restrictions, he said. Botswana's security forces have beaten, tortured and killed Bushmen and Khwe subsistence hunters face increasing and often fraudulent poaching charges.

Alfred Majaye Dube, the High Commissioner for Botswana in London, said last night that the Central Kalahari Game Reserve had been



A Bushman hunts in Botswana, but his way of life is threatened by the pressures of the booming tourism industry

meant for wildlife, not human habitation. "The Khwe were never moved before because they were not regarded as people who needed everything else. We do not accept that they should be condemned to that life forever," he said.

adding that the Khwe would have better schools and clinics elsewhere in Botswana. Under Botswana land use plans, all national parks have to be free of human and domestic animals, according to Mr Dube. He denied that a date had

been fixed for the eviction of the tribespeople. "Negotiations are continuing with the community and the Government is looking at possible alternative sites." The tribes people would receive compensation, he said. The envoy

denied that lucrative tourist income was the motivation behind the Government's plans. "That area is not really meant for tourists. It will not be swamped with Japanese and Germans tomorrow. It is too inaccessible."

## Seoul hits back in buffer zone row

By DAVID WATTS

PRESIDENT Kim Young Sam of South Korea yesterday warned the Communist North against "reckless provocation" after Pyongyang refused to recognise the buffer zone between the two sides.

North Korea's strategy appears to be aimed at putting pressure on Seoul in the run-up to elections this month and at trying to tempt Washington into a bilateral peace treaty in place of the present United Nations arrangement.

A third, but more remote, possibility is that the North is under pressure from its starving population and may be seeking a safety-valve which would also have an impact on the South.

"North Korea has recently unleashed militant remarks, but they should realise any reckless provocation would only lead to their collapse," President Kim told troops near the demilitarised zone.

Pyeongyang announced it would no longer respect the demilitarised zone, a buffer designed to discourage military confrontation.

In Washington, the State Department said it was unclear why North Korea had decided to issue such an ambiguous and dangerous statement. "It is hard to tell what the internal situation is and what could be motivating them," an official said.

## Corruption augurs poll disaster for Gandhi successors

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA'S governing Congress Party, facing a general election this month, is in chaos after a run of resignations, scandals and rebellions that have raised questions about its survival as the country's pre-eminent political force.

A dozen ministers have quit in the past month, most because they were implicated in bribery, others because they are disgusted with the pre-election manoeuvrings of P. V. Narasimha Rao, the Prime Minister.

Two more ministers resigned this week, taking the total to more than a third of the ministerial team. They were protesting at an electoral deal Mr Rao made with the discredited Jayalalitha Jayaram, a former film star elected Chief Minister of the huge southern state of Tamil Nadu five years ago. Police are investigating her fabulous new wealth; her official salary is two pence a month.

She likes her loyalists to abuse themselves publicly, making her a hated and feared figure. Some have sought to please her by rolling on their backs like dogs; others have grovelled before her on hands and knees. A travelling tattooist branded

village women with her name and last year she attended a ceremony in which 430 state employees were to have walked across burning coals to mark her 49th birthday. They backed out when they saw the embers.

Many in the Congress Party are appalled Mr Rao would deal with Ms Jayalalitha. But Tamil Nadu sends 39 MPs to the 543-seat Lok Sabha (lower house), which could be decisive. No party is likely to win an outright majority, and Ms Jayalalitha could prove vital.

Mr Rao has enhanced the Congress Party's reputation for corruption and unethical tactics. He announced that none of the MPs implicated in financial scandals would be accepted as electoral candidates, but then ensured that friends, wives and relatives got the tickets instead.

Mr Rao has not forgotten his family: he has set aside a prized constituency in his home state of Andhra Pradesh for a son. Another son is said to be implicated in a sugar scandal.

There are 19,000 candidates nationally, of whom many are crooks. The crime-politics nexus is especially strong in the northern Hindi-speaking belt. In many states politicians-cum-crime bosses run parallel governments. Police say at least a fifth of the candidates in Uttar Pradesh, with a population of 120 million, have been involved in serious crime.

This is the first election to be held beyond the shadow of the Gandhi-Nehru dynasty, which gave the Congress Party unrivalled leadership and a measure of internal stability, as well as keeping it in power for most of the past 49 years.

The outcome is a toss-up between the Congress Party, the Bharatiya Janata Party, and the National Front/Left Front alliance. India may get its first coalition government.



Rao: deal with discredited leader appalled party

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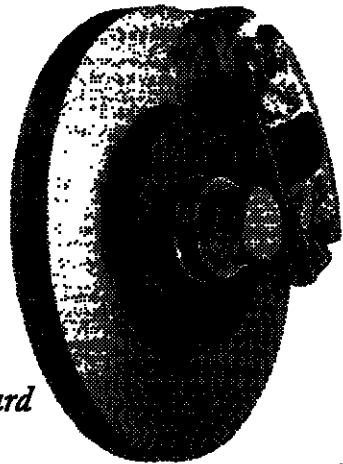
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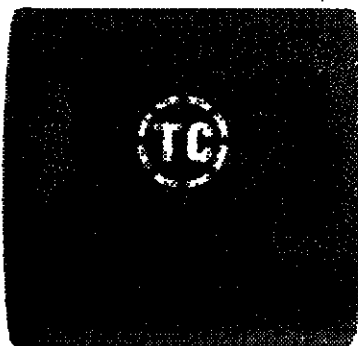
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Steve Earle: back to rock from a hard place



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What the teachers' conferences should be discussing



## SPORT 37-44

Ruffling feathers in the court of badminton's finest

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# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY APRIL 5 1996

US judge rules British Government cannot use racketeering laws

## De Lorean claim rejected

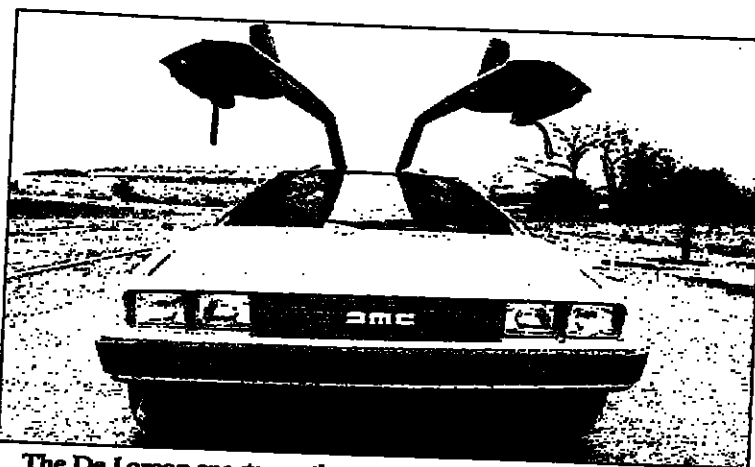
By ERIC REGULY

ARTHUR ANDERSEN, the accountant, declared victory yesterday after a New York judge ruled that the British Government could not use racketeering laws to claim up to an estimated \$1 billion in damages in the De Lorean Motor Cars case.

The ruling, however, does not necessarily absolve Arthur Andersen from any wrongdoing. Judge Mukasey, the federal judge in Manhattan, has permitted a narrower trial to proceed on claims under federal securities laws.

Malcolm Schade, a lawyer at Thatcher Proffitt & Wood, the British Government's legal counsel in New York, said: "On balance, this is definitely not a defeat. In refusing to strike out the fraud and negligence claims, the Government has left intact what has always been the heart of the case."

But James Zirin of Brown & Wood, lawyers for Arthur Andersen, called the judgment a blow for the British Government and said his client expected to win the upcoming trial, which is expected to start within the year. He said: "This was an Alice in



The De Lorean sports car that was built in Belfast and John De Lorean, who founded the company

Wonderland claim from the start. It removes a tremendous black cloud over Arthur Andersen's head."

The Government's Department of Economic Development issued a writ against the international accounting firm in 1985. It alleged conspiracy, fraud, negligence and incompetence in auditing De Lorean Motors, the maker of the gull-wing sports car that collapsed in 1982. The failure of the company cost 2,000 jobs in

Northern Ireland and wiped out the Government's £78 million investment in the factory in the form of grants, loans and preference shares. John Zachary De Lorean, now 71, the former Chrysler Corp executive who founded the car factory, allegedly stole \$8.5 million from the factory's investors but was never convicted of fraud. He was also acquitted in 1984 on cocaine trafficking charges. The British Government sued Ar-

thur Andersen for £240 million under the racketeering statute, known as Rico, which was originally designed as a weapon against the serial fraud perpetrated by the Mafia. Rico allows for treble damages and the Government could have collected up to about \$1 billion, if interest were included, if it had won. It also could have recovered its legal costs, thought to be millions of dollars. Mr Zirin estimated that Arthur

Andersen would lose only as much as £20 million, equivalent to the Government's final investment in De Lorean Motors in 1980-81, if the new trial goes against it. Judge Mukasey dismissed claims for damages related to the Government's original, and much bigger, investment in the late 1970s.

But Mr Schade said that the £20 million figure was unrealistic. He noted that the Government, while seeking treble damages under Rico, was not seeking pre-judgment interest as well. In the new case, he said, the Government intends to ask for pre-judgment interest, which, if paid, would greatly expand the cost to Arthur Andersen.

The firm has always argued that it audited De Lorean Motors properly. It said yesterday that Judge Mukasey's ruling only revealed the Government's effort "to make Andersen the scapegoat for the ineptitude and mistakes of government officials."

The firm hopes that the judgment will allow it to compete for government contracts again. For the past eleven years, it has done no work for government departments, which it estimated spent £50 million a year on accounting firms.

## Freight firm to seek 4,000 job cuts

By OUR INDUSTRIAL STAFF

THE American company that took over the British Rail freight business is looking for up to 4,000 voluntary redundancies from the 7,639 freight and post distribution staff. The company declined to put a figure on the number of jobs it wants to shed but it is understood that job losses could reach 4,000.

Staff yesterday received letters outlining the terms of the voluntary package on offer from North & South Railways, the British arm of Wisconsin Central Transportation Corporation, the American transport company.

North & South Railways said that it wanted to make the cost reductions as part of an effort to increase its share of the British freight market.

The proportion of freight in Britain that is carried by the railways has fallen to 6 per cent — against 63 per cent for the roads. It has been in gradual decline since the Sixties. Before taking over the British Rail freight operations at the end of February, Wisconsin was best known as owner of the Royal Mail.

Wisconsin said that it had told the rail unions about the voluntary redundancy scheme which involves the three former British Rail freight companies — Loadhaul, Mainline Freight and Transrail — in addition to Rail Express Systems, the company that delivers the Royal Mail.

RMT, the biggest of the rail unions, said: "We are concerned that the job losses envisaged do not square with the company's declared strategy of growth."

"We shall continue with our talks with the company. Our policy has always been that there should be no compulsory redundancies," Wisconsin said that the voluntary package takes into account people's age, salary and the number of years in service.

## BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3755.6	(+30.5)
FT-SE All share	3.95%	
Nikkei	1869.53	(+13.64)
Dow Jones	21471.16	(+6.43)
New York		
Dow Jones	5889.02	(-0.72)
S&P Composite	686.27	(+0.48)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	9 1/4%	(9 1/4%)
Yield	6.62%	(6.63%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6%	(6%)
Life long gilt		
Future (Jun)	105 1/2	(105 1/4)

STERLING

New York	1.5295*	(1.5255)
London		
DM	1.5301	(1.5263)
DM	2.2637	(2.251)
FF	7.7060	(7.6890)
Sfr	1.2622	(1.2510)
Yen	163.68	(162.65)
\$ Index	83.6	(83.4)

\$\$\$ DOLLAR

London	1.4805*	(1.4821)
DM	5.0355*	(5.0525)
FF	1.1635*	(1.1663)
Sfr	107.08*	(108.94)
Yen	95.8	(95.7)

Tokyo close Yen 108.98

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jun)	\$18.85	(\$18.80)
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GOLD

London close	\$383.75	(\$384.05)
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\* denotes midday trading price

## Lloyd's protest

Lloyd's of London is braced for a storm of protest over a long-awaited review of its recovery plans, copies of which were posted to 34,000 names yesterday. The report by Slaughter and May, the law firm, does not assess the hard figures underpinning Lloyd's reconstruction and renewal plan, and has been accused of drawing its conclusions in a "financial vacuum". Page 24

## Optimism

Alfred McAlpine, the construction company, yesterday sounded an optimistic note about the troubled building market, despite revealing a £23.5 million loss. Page 25

## Suppliers in dispute over what went in gas pipeline

By ROSS TIERMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A BITTER dispute has broken out between British Gas and independent gas suppliers over how much gas has been delivered through the national pipeline system, and to whom. The disagreement calls into question arrangements designed to enable the entire United Kingdom gas market to be opened up to competition over the next two years.

Seven suppliers have written to Ofgas, the industry regulator, calling for invoices relating to £30 million of charges for delivering gas to industrial and commercial customers in March to be held back. The disagreement comes after a dispute, last month, in which shippers failed to respond to a demand from TransCo for gas in the new flexibility market and TransCo had to buy gas at high prices to balance the system. Shippers now blame

TransCo for failing to provide the necessary data, leaving them unaware of the position.

Now, shippers say that volume estimates by British Gas's TransCo subsidiary, which runs the pipeline system, are hopelessly inaccurate. Since the Network Code came into operation on March 1, daily discrepancies of up to 15 per cent have been recorded between the amount of gas shippers calculate customers have used, and estimates prepared by TransCo. Gas shippers say that they could face financial penalties, payable to TransCo, because of discrepancies.

The letter to Ofgas was written after a meeting yesterday between TransCo and pipeline users. Among the companies that have asked Clare Spottiswoode, the regulator, to intervene are Quadrant, owned by Shell and Esso, and Kinetica, controlled by PowerGen. The seven signatories account for three-quarters of the industrial gas market in Britain, and perhaps a quarter of all gas shipped through the pipeline.

A TransCo spokesman said: "We are going to do some more calculations next week and get back to the shippers." TransCo believed the code had worked well in the first month, but Ofgas could order changes if there were problems, he said.

The shippers believe the problems are deep-seated. The letter to Ofgas said there are "unacceptable and unquantifiable commercial risks arising from customer portfolio disarray, chronic data deficiencies, and the failure of information flows".

The shippers say that the problems arise because of shortcomings in the TransCo database of sites served.

Tempus, page 26

## Bischoff makes £1m on shares

By PATRICIA TISHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

WIN BISCHOFF, who took over as chairman of Schroders, the investment bank, last May, made a £1.03 million profit last year on the sale of shares he received under the bank's share option scheme.

The profit was in addition to a paper profit of £231,000 on the exercise of share options and to his pay of £654,000 last year, which included a bonus of £455,000. His total pay was down £1,000 after a reduction in benefits. Last year, Schroders increased its profits by just 1 per cent to £197.3 million, but the dividend payment was 17 per cent higher at 16p.

In line with best practice, Schroders increased the amount of information presented in its annual report, going further than most other banks in spelling out the profits made by directors on the exercise of share options.

The bank's best-paid director was James Harmon, who received a total salary, benefits and bonus of £1.13 million last year.



Joseph Wan, chief executive of Harvey Nichols, the upmarket retailer that is about to obtain a stock market listing in London. The company, with a single store in Knightsbridge, west London, will be valued at between £132 million and £148.5 million. Pennington, page 25

## Ex-Swan Hunter workers win £6m payout

By MARTIN BARROW

MORE than 2,000 former shipyard workers from Swan Hunter on Tyneside will share a near-£6 million settlement for compensation they claimed after being made redundant.

The average payout will be between £2,000 and £3,000, although a small group of former managers will receive up to £15,000.

The settlement, against Price Waterhouse, the receivers, follows lengthy negotiations involving the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions and union solicitors.

The settlement is a direct result of the 1994 Paramount Airways ruling, which left receivers and administrators liable to pay some claims from employees they had laid off.

Subsequent legislation in 1994 removed the liability but this was not retrospective, leaving some 500,000 employees of companies that ran into difficulties between 1986 and March 1994 free to claim compensation.

The confederation, a coalition of unions including the GMB and the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, argued that the workers should have been paid more compensation.

Tommy Brennan, a regional official of the GMB, said the ex-Swan employees had lost out on severance pay because the receivers had argued it was not their responsibility. "This is a sweet victory, but all we have won is what the workers would have been entitled to if they had been made redundant by the employers rather than the receivers."

Gordon Horsfield, one of the joint receivers, said the level of the settlement illustrated the concerns expressed by insolvency practitioners when the House of Lords' ruling was made two years ago.

## Candidates line up for top job at Woolwich

By OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

AT LEAST six candidates have already put their names forward to succeed Peter Robinson, who was dismissed as chief executive of the Woolwich Building Society on Tuesday.

Most are from banks and other building societies, but applicants include John Stewart, Woolwich operations director. The society is keen to move quickly to keep its £3 billion stock market flotation planned for next year on track.

Mr Robinson has said through his

solicitors that he felt "extremely aggrieved" that he had not been given the opportunity to answer back. A spokeswoman for his lawyers, D J Freeman, said: "Mr Robinson wants to know just what the allegations are against him. The ball is in the court of the Woolwich."

Mr Robinson was confronted with allegations relating to the purchase of a Range Rover and to decorating and gardening work undertaken at his home in Brasted, Kent.

The forced resignation over the alleged abuse of company facilities and the news that Mr Robinson was able to sign his

own expenses without a supporting signature for more than a year has focused attention on best practice in building societies and banks.

Donald Kirkham, acting chief executive of the Woolwich, said Mr Robinson, along with other Woolwich directors, had signed his own personal expenses, saying it was "a question of trust". But he added: "The particular list of allegations does not include personal expenses." He said the society would be reviewing its audit procedures, including those for personal expenses and company facilities, in the

aftermath of this week's events. However, last night Mr Kirkham said: "Mr Robinson was told by the chairman (Sir Brian Jenkins), accompanied by a director and legal adviser when he was seen on Monday, of the allegations and was shown a shorthand."

He said the investigation continues and it could be two weeks before the work is completed. He said: "He was not required to resign on the basis that there were allegations: it was on the basis that there was a lack of trust and confidence in him, particularly on the part of the management."

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## Seasonal lift for traffic at Eurotunnel

By Sarah Cunningham

EUROTUNNEL, the heavily indebted Channel Tunnel operator, yesterday reported sharply higher traffic figures for its Le Shuttle car transport service in March, but analysts said the figures were flattered by seasonal factors.

Eurotunnel said Le Shuttle tourist traffic had doubled in March compared with the same month last year at 152,875 vehicles and 5,619 coaches. Compared with February, the tourist traffic was up 31 per cent.

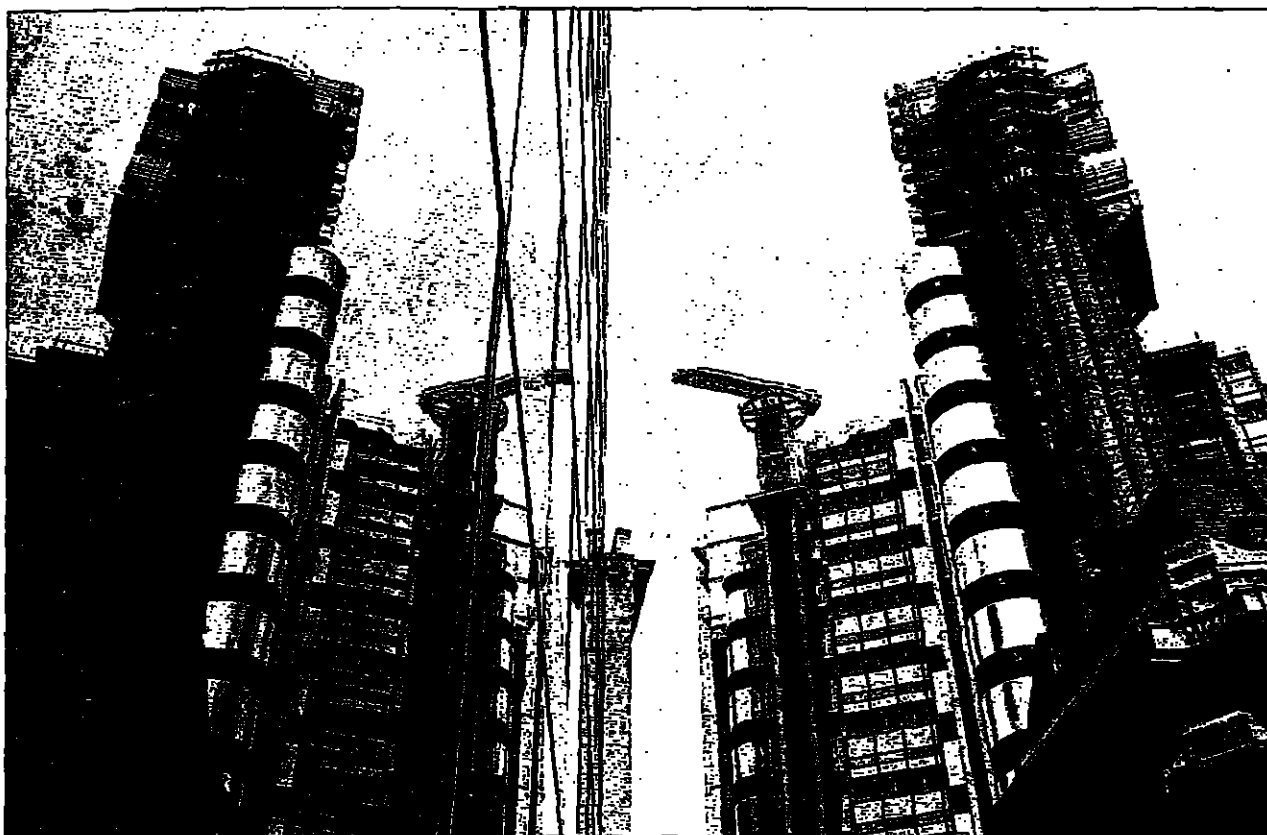
The traffic figures pushed Eurotunnel's war-weary shares up 3p to 66p but analysts said the data were largely meaningless as a year ago Eurotunnel was barely up and running and traffic would be expected to rise in March every year, particularly when Easter falls in early April.

"The figures are pretty good, but they are distorted by the seasonality of the business. What everyone is really concerned with is Eurotunnel's need to sort out its debt problem," said Wendy Wong, transport analyst at Merrill Lynch Smith New Court.

Eurotunnel suspended interest payments on its £8 billion debt last year. It has been locked in negotiations with its banks ever since. Meanwhile, it has been fighting a fierce battle for market share with cross-Channel ferry companies.

Eurotunnel said that on Saturday March 30 Le Shuttle broke its previous record by carrying 8,430 vehicles, including 586 coaches. Le Shuttle's freight business carried 46,534 trucks in March, in line with February traffic.

All at sea, page 27



Lloyd's rescue plan has been reviewed by the Slaughter and May law firm, but critics attack a lack of input by actuaries

## Lloyd's facing protest over 'vacuum' report

By Jon Ashworth

LLOYD'S of London is braced for a storm of protest over a long-awaited review of its recovery plans, copies of which were posted to 34,000 names yesterday. The report, by Slaughter and May, the law firm, does not assess the hard figures underpinning Lloyd's reconstruction and renewal (R&R) plan, and has been accused of drawing its conclusions in a "financial vacuum".

It is costing Lloyd's £80,000 to distribute the 62-page report, details of which will be published tomorrow. Leaked extracts confirm Slaughter and May's independent con-

clusion that R&R is the best way forward for names. Without R&R, names would have no finality, no end to litigation and no assistance from the central fund, and would be likely to face immediate cash calls.

Alan Porter, one of three members of the Validation Steering Group (VSG), which commissioned the report, has refused to endorse it. In a letter to names, he suggests that some of Slaughter and May's conclusions have been reached prematurely or been based on inadequate information. He adds: "It is of great concern to many names that

Lloyd's appears to be unable to offer financial statements and due diligence of a standard that would normally accompany any other major corporate or financial reconstruction."

Mr Porter is deputy chairman of the Lloyd's Names Associations' Working Party (LNAWP), which yesterday kept up the attack on the lack of input from accountants or actuaries. Commenting on the report, the LNAWP said: "Its usefulness to names is devalued by trying to draw legal conclusions in a financial vacuum."

Sir David Berriman and

Damon de Laszlo, the two other VSG members, argue that the report provides a ringing endorsement for R&R.

Sir David said: "The report confirms that Lloyd's is on the right track and that it is wishful thinking to believe that there is a viable alternative to the R&R plan. Efforts must now be concentrated on ensuring the settlement fund is big enough to end the litigation and enable members to pay their Equitas bills."

Separately, Lloyd's has agreed a month-long truce with American state commissioners, in the face of mounting disquiet among US regulators. The standstill was agreed in New York at a meeting with the North American Securities Association.

Under the deal, Lloyd's has agreed to refrain from drawing down letters of credit backing US names' financial obligations, to allow time for discussions with state regulators. Nine US states have initiated enforcement actions against Lloyd's, alleging violations of state securities law and registration and anti-fraud provisions.

Lloyd's said that the standstill would provide an opportunity to correct misunderstandings and misperceptions.

## Bristol & West favourite for bid

By Caroline Merrell

THE Bristol & West has emerged as favourite as the next building society to be the target of a takeover bid.

It has already raised its minimum investment to £2,500 in an attempt to stop speculators opening accounts to benefit from any share or cash payout. The society, which has assets of about £14.8 billion and more than a million members, would cost about £700 million to buy.

John Burke, Bristol & West chief executive, emphasises that the society would want to retain its identity if taken over. The society also emphasises that, unlike competitors that have chosen to convert because they wish to diversify, it wants to concentrate on producing the best services and products for savers and borrowers.

Prudential and National Australia Bank have both been tipped as possible bidders for the society.

The fact that the Bristol & West wants to keep its identity would appear to rule out some of the other possible bidders, such as Abbey National, the Halifax and Lloyds Bank. Speculation around the Bristol & West is intensifying after the surprise announcement by Northern Rock that it intends to float on the stock market.

The few remaining societies that are committed to staying mutual reiterated their call for the Government to tighten rules governing society membership. They want it to be made harder for predators to take over societies. Those emphasising mutuality include the Nationwide, the Bradford & Bingley, the Yorkshire and the Britannia.

Rob Thomas, building societies analyst with UBS, said: "Bristol & West have not been affirming their mutuality, although they do appear interested in remaining an autonomous entity."



Burke: wants identity kept

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### BT managers vote for action over pay

BT MANAGERS and other senior staff have voted to take industrial action over pay. Backing for action short of a strike by members of the Society of Telecom Executives threatens a "serious and damaging" dispute, a union leader warned. STE members voted by 6,782 to 1,683 to take action, which will include a work-to-rule and withdrawal of goodwill. The union is complaining about the "secrecy" of a pay offer which will add 4 per cent to BT's wage bill but could lead to some managers receiving nothing.

Simon Petch, STE general secretary, said: "It will mean a wide range of increases starting well below the rate of inflation. Members are not clear how these will be decided or who will get what. Many simply do not trust the company to treat them fairly and resent a pay system shrouded in secrecy." Talks are likely to be held between the two sides next week to try to avert action by the managers.

### Broker expands

SUTHERLAND & PARTNERS, the Edinburgh-based stockbroker, is opening a London office, after investors including 3i, Equitable Life and Rea Brothers, put up funding of £2 million. The firm, which has been trading since 1989, is a fixed interest broker with a growing equities brokerage business. Mike Cunnane, former partner of Farnhurst Gordon, will run the office. He has also contributed part of the funding. Roddy Orr, former director of equity sales at ABN-Amro Hoare Govett, is also joining the new venture.

### A J Archer chief quits

RALPH SHARP, managing director of A J Archer, the quoted Lloyd's underwriter, has left the company "to pursue other opportunities", according to an announcement made on the Stock Exchange yesterday. The company said Mr Sharp "has been considering the changes which will occur in the Lloyd's market in the post-reconstruction and renewal period and wishes to be free to pursue a number of opportunities which may arise at that time. In the circumstances, he believes that it would be inappropriate to continue as managing director".

### Halifax cuts savers' rates

THE Halifax has cut its savers' rates by an average 0.25 per cent, handing on the whole of last month's bank base-rate cut. None of the society's main accounts, including the Liquid Gold instant access account and the Solid Gold 90-day notice accounts, has escaped unscathed. The rate on a balance of £5,000 in the Liquid Gold account will now earn 2.9 per cent gross, down from 3.2 per cent. The same balance in a Solid Gold account will earn 3.35 per cent gross instead of 3.6 per cent gross.

### Ex-Daiwa chief guilty

THE former general manager of Daiwa Bank's New York branch has pleaded guilty to charges of conspiring to defraud federal regulators. The plea was entered at Manhattan district court. Masahiro Tsuda was accused of conspiring with Daiwa to hide a \$1.1 billion loss at the branch. In February, the bank pleaded guilty to concealing the loss and agreed to pay \$340 million in fines. Mr Tsuda was alleged to have assisted in the cover-up by failing to file a report with regulators and hiding records.

### Standard to sell broker

STANDARD CHARTERED BANK proposes to sell Standard Chartered Securities, which has stockbroking activities in Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, China and Thailand, as well as Britain and America, to Nava Finance and Securities for an estimated HK\$103.4 million (£8.7 million). Nava will acquire an 80.1 per cent interest and Thai Military Bank, the largest shareholder in Nava, will acquire a 10 per cent interest. Standard Chartered Bank will retain 9.9 per cent.

### Housing starts steady

THE number of housing starts in the three months to February totalled 33,600 — unchanged from the previous three months but 17 per cent lower than the same three months a year ago, according to the Department of the Environment. Housing completions were up 3 per cent from the previous three months, at 45,400, but this was unchanged from a year earlier. Private enterprise housing starts and completions were both up 6 per cent from the previous three months.

### Keating case overturned

CHARLES KEATING, the figure at the centre of the US Savings & Loans controversy that cost taxpayers billions of dollars in the early 1990s, has had his state court convictions for fraud overturned.

Keating was convicted in 1991 of 17 counts of securities fraud, but a US district court has ruled that the judge in that trial was wrong to instruct the jury that they could convict the former head of Lincoln Saving & Loan of aiding and abetting securities violations even if he did not directly know a crime was being committed. Keating is unlikely to be released from jail immediately because he was convicted of similar charges in a federal court in 1993.

### TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.04	1.88
Austria Sch	15.80	15.40
Belgium Fr	48.44	45.14
Canada \$	2.180	2.020
Cyprus Cyp	0.748	0.684
Denmark Kr	8.54	8.54
Finland Mk	7.94	6.98
France Fr	6.11	7.48
Germany Dm	2.41	2.20
Greece Dr	388.00	388.00
Hong Kong \$	12.46	11.45
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1700	4.5200
Italy Lire	2404.00	2280.00
Japan Yen	177.50	161.50
Malta	0.581	0.538
Netherlands Gld	2.890	2.650
New Zealand \$	2.38	2.16
Norway Kr	10.38	9.58
Portugal Esc	244.00	226.50
S Africa Rd	6.76	5.95
Spain Ptas	195.50	183.50
Sweden Kr	10.78	9.88
Switzerland Fr	1.96	1.78
Turkey Lira	115000	109000
USA \$	1.204	1.094

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

## SFA bans salesman in £4m loss

By Jon Ashworth

A BOND salesman who tried to conceal a £4 million loss on a client's account has been expelled by the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA). David Santangelo has also been fined £25,000 and ordered to pay costs of £8,000.

The action is the second in two days by the SFA. Geoffrey Glazebrook, former head of European equities market-

making with NatWest Securities, was expelled from City registers and fined £7,500 for concealing trading losses over an eight-month period. He was ordered to pay costs of £2,500.

Mr Santangelo, an American, was a salesman in the fixed-income division of CS First Boston (CSFB) until his dismissal in February 1994.

He ran up a huge loss on a trade, and then induced his client into a series of over-valued transactions, with a view to concealing the deficit. CSFB has compensated the unnamed client.

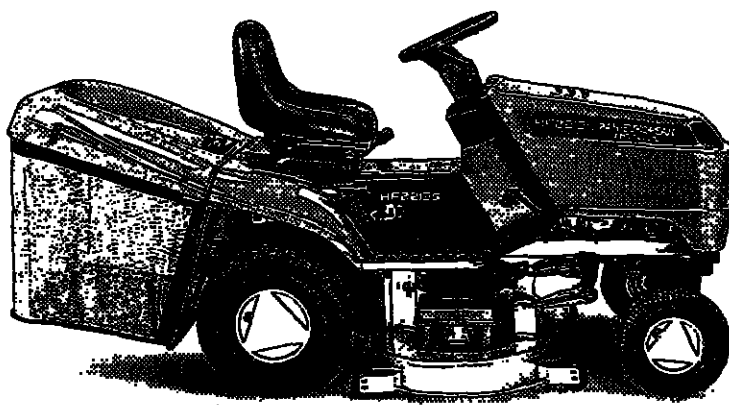
It is unclear whether the US Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) is aware of the order that has been made against Mr Sant-

angelo, which does not extend to America.

The SFA conceded that it has not contacted the SEC directly about the case, in spite of growing calls for closer co-operation between international regulators.

About 50 individuals have been expelled from City registers since the SFA was formed in 1991.

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## New car buyers in the slow lane

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Editor

SALES of new cars to private buyers fell last month as the motor industry continued to suffer the lack of a "feel-good" factor in showrooms.

Total registrations in March were down 0.87 per cent on the same month last year to 180,275, compared with 181,849, according to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders. The total masked a huge gap between private sales and company fleets. While fleet and company car sector sales rose 10.4 per cent last month over March 1995, private sales were 6.6 per cent down.

This underlines a trend which the motor industry seems powerless to reverse, in spite of discounting and offering incentives, such as free insurance and zero per cent finance. And it comes at the same time that the motor industry is being criticised for

selling cars at too high prices. Roger King, SMMT public affairs director, said yesterday that the sluggishness of the private purchasing sector "continues to cause concern".

He said recent reports that British and European car prices were higher than those in the US were "misleading" as they were not comparing like with like. He added: "The reports have done nothing to build consumer confidence, which can only be encouraged by both manufacturers and retailers working together."

New car sales for the first three months of 1996 now total 531,049, a 1.08 per cent increase on the same period last year. The ten best-selling cars in March were: Ford Fiesta, Ford Escort, Vauxhall Astra, Vauxhall Vectra, Ford Mondeo, Vauxhall Corsa, Rover 400, Peugeot 306, Rover 100 and the Renault Clio.

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□ City on alert over US figures □ Dilemma for the water regulator □ Expensive price tag for Harvey Nichols

## Odd jobs for the weekend?

□ SPRING is sprung at last, and events two millennia ago make today a day of rest. Down to a DIY shed, and a temporary bodge on that bit of dodgy guttering? To the nursery, and a long-delayed blitz on the garden? Or just a spin into the country, and lunch in a pub?

As you mull over the options, a moment's thought for a band of City professionals who, deprived of such choice, are even now anticipating an awful weekend. The City is fielding a skeleton staff this Easter to deal with the fallout from US jobs figures.

The monthly non-farm payroll data would not generally trouble the scores this side of the Atlantic — except that the last set knocked world stock markets into a tailspin. This Good Friday the US Employment Department will issue an update, as well as the March figures for jobs creation in the US.

The announcement of a sharp upsurge in the US economy on March 8 spoiled what would otherwise have been a splendid day for the London stock market. Kenneth Clarke having sanctioned the third cut in base rates since December.

US economists had been looking for a 300,000 rise in the number of Americans employed outside agriculture, which would have implied a healthy economy but one with room yet for further

interest rate cuts. The figures showed an extraordinary 705,000 rise, suggesting that the interest rate cycle had flipped over and the next move, in however many months, would be up again.

The FT-SE tumbled 48 points and the Dow ended 171 points lower. The fear was that this was the trigger for a long-delayed sharp fall for world stock markets. But life went on. The Dow Jones is now back above where it was that Friday, the FT-SE in London about equal, even if the same doubts linger that the markets are overvalued. Today's figures will indicate whether that huge job creation in February was real or must be revised downwards, and whether March saw another rise.

If the March figure shows an increase in the number of American jobs of less than 100,000, this will be good news, and all the better if accompanied by a February revision from 705,000 to perhaps as low as 200,000. The February figures could have been distorted two ways, by the strike at General Motors and by temporary work associated with

the canvassing going on for the American presidential election.

But in the topsy-turvy world of economics, if jobs are still being created in America, world markets could be set for another disastrous fall. London's problem is that the City will be closed until Tuesday morning. World markets can move a long way over such a time, and stocks and bonds in London might be worth significantly less by then. On a grim historical note, the 1987 crash was made more traumatic in London because the hurricane on Friday morning kept much of the market out of action.

Have a pleasant weekend.

### Byatt survives, at a price

□ IAN BYATT has been by far the best utility regulator in an undistinguished field. So he should have been a shoe-in for another term as Director-General of Water Services, if he wanted one. But not until recently. Water was unpopular, damaging the Government. This meant black marks for Byatt and some reluc-



tance even to extend his term by two years to sort out appeals from the 1994 price review. His age was an ideal excuse. Since then, however, the former Treasury man has been bending cheerfully with the political wind, striking poses that must discomfit his fastidious mind and starting far too many initiatives for a chap about to retire.

Political sensitivity has earned its reward. Mr Byatt has beaten off ambitious challengers to win another four-year term, making a potential 11 years in all. But that political correctness will surely haunt him, whichever party wins the next election.

The immediate dilemma is what to do with South West Water. In theory, the mooted

takeover by neighbouring Wessex is the worst kind in the regulator's book. Severn Trent would be little better. In practice, South West Water was always set to be the problem child of water privatisation. Few would be keener than Mr Byatt, and local MPs, to see the Monopolies Commission and Whitehall send both bids back to Ofwat, where he could conduct a Dutch auction of price rebates for South West customers.

The regulator could then say he had nobly sacrificed a comparator for the immediate sake of customers. But that was before John Major, with the nodding co-operation of Mr Byatt, decided that competition would solve all problems of high water prices. Without a water grid, meaningful competition for South West can come only from Wessex or, just possibly, from Severn Trent or Wales's Hyder.

A merger would rule out the competition that is supposed to solve the problem. In practice, this is all rot. A Wessex takeover will do far more for South West customers than competition is ever likely to. But it would take

all the subtleties of Mr Byatt's Whitehall-oiled brain to make the right answer plausible, let alone politically correct.

### Absolutely stratospheric

□ AS BEfits a store where everything seems to cost about four times what it should, Harvey Nichols has come to the market with a vastly inflated price tag. The indicated price range in yesterday's pathfinder prospectus suggests a flotation on a past earnings multiple as high as 26.

This is quite simply stratospheric, a good 40 per cent ahead of the retail sector average. The company's pleas that this merely reflects the quality of the business are somewhat weakened by the comparisons it provides. Enjoying a similar rating, says Harvey Nicks, are House of Fraser and Liberty. The first is a retail disappointment, its shares propped up by hopes of a bid. The second lost its chief executive this week after a profits collapse. Let us therefore, as is this column's habit when looking at a

new flotation, consider what can go wrong. Harvey Nicks is a one property business, all the profits coming from that emporium in Knightsbridge so heavily advertised in *Absolutely Fabulous*. A new store, costing £9.5 million, opens in Leeds later this year but is as yet an untried product. Even more so is the restaurant being built in the Oxo Tower on London's South Bank, some miles from Knightsbridge, costing £3.5 million. Restaurants, even more than fashion retailers, are dicey investments.

Shares like this, heavily tied to a single brand name, are notoriously hard to value. The present management has made an extraordinary success of turning round an ailing business. Whether they deserve so rich a reward at the end of that process is another matter.

### Pizza the action

□ THE AWARD for making the most political capital out of "mad cow" disease, until now held by Harriet Harman, is hereby awarded to the pizza company whose press release gushes about a "sudden sales boost" over the past fortnight. The scare has converted a hitherto unidentified slice of the population who had never seen a pizza, let alone tasted one, it says here. Nice try — but no name check.

## McAlpine optimistic after loss

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

ALFRED MCALPINE, the construction company, yesterday sounded an optimistic note about the troubled building market, despite revealing a full-year loss of £23.5 million.

McAlpine shares rose 4p to close at 178p after the company said it was maintaining the total dividend at 7p as an expression of confidence.

McAlpine singled out £300 million of new business won under the Private Finance Initiative and said that it was optimistic of winning more contracts through the year. It added that prospects were also rapidly improving in the leisure and healthcare sectors. Its newly created special projects division has already won a rebuilding programme at Blackpool Football Club.

Oliver Whitehead, chief executive, said: "The future of PFI work looks encouraging. Affordability in the housing market is not yet matched by consumer confidence but we believe there will be a modest improvement during 1996."

McAlpine blamed the losses on exceptional charges of £27.4 million relating to re-

structuring and a £7.3 million loss on the closure of the open tender building division. Pre-tax profits for continuing activities, excluding exceptional charges, rose 4.5 per cent to £11.2 million. Turnover fell 18 per cent to £757.3 million compared with the 14 months to the end of December 1994.

Profits in the house building division fell 36 per cent to £11.5 million as the operating margin crumbled from 9.6 per cent to 7 per cent. Completions fell 10 per cent to 1,645.

The civil engineering division also suffered an 88 per cent profit fall to £200,000 as competition remained intense and margins collapsed. McAlpine said the division was reorganised in the third quarter and it now held a £160 million forward order book.

The building division, which has now been shut down, made a loss of £6.8 million. But the US division doubled profits to £3.4 million, while profits in the state business were flat at £1.4 million. A final dividend of 4p (4p) is payable on May 31.

Tempos, page 26

### Nor Systems first to go at Norcros

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

NORCROS, the industrial conglomerate, began the process of disposing of its print and packaging division with the sale of Nor Systems to Japan's Sato Corporation for £215 million. The company also announced a reorganisation of the board and the appointment of a new chief executive.

The managing director of the paper and packaging division, Robert Alcock, will be leaving the group in the near future. The group's executive chairman, Michael Doherty, will become a non-executive chairman, and Joe Matthews, managing director of the ceramics division, will become group chief executive.

Norcros said that the disposal of Nor Systems will yield an exceptional gain of around £16.5 million, which will appear in the 1996-97 accounts and which the group will use to help to pay off net debt.

Tempos, page 26

### BET payout doubts

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE war of words in the £1.9 billion bid battle between BET and Rentokil continued yesterday as Rentokil claimed BET would be unable to meet forecast dividend payments without resorting to borrowing.

Rentokil said that BET's cashflow had been negative in the past two years and predicted it would amount to a net outflow of £29 million for the year ending March 31, 1996, compared with a forecast dividend cost of £39 million. Earlier BET had issued a forecast that the company's

### AT&T sets \$3bn record with spin-off

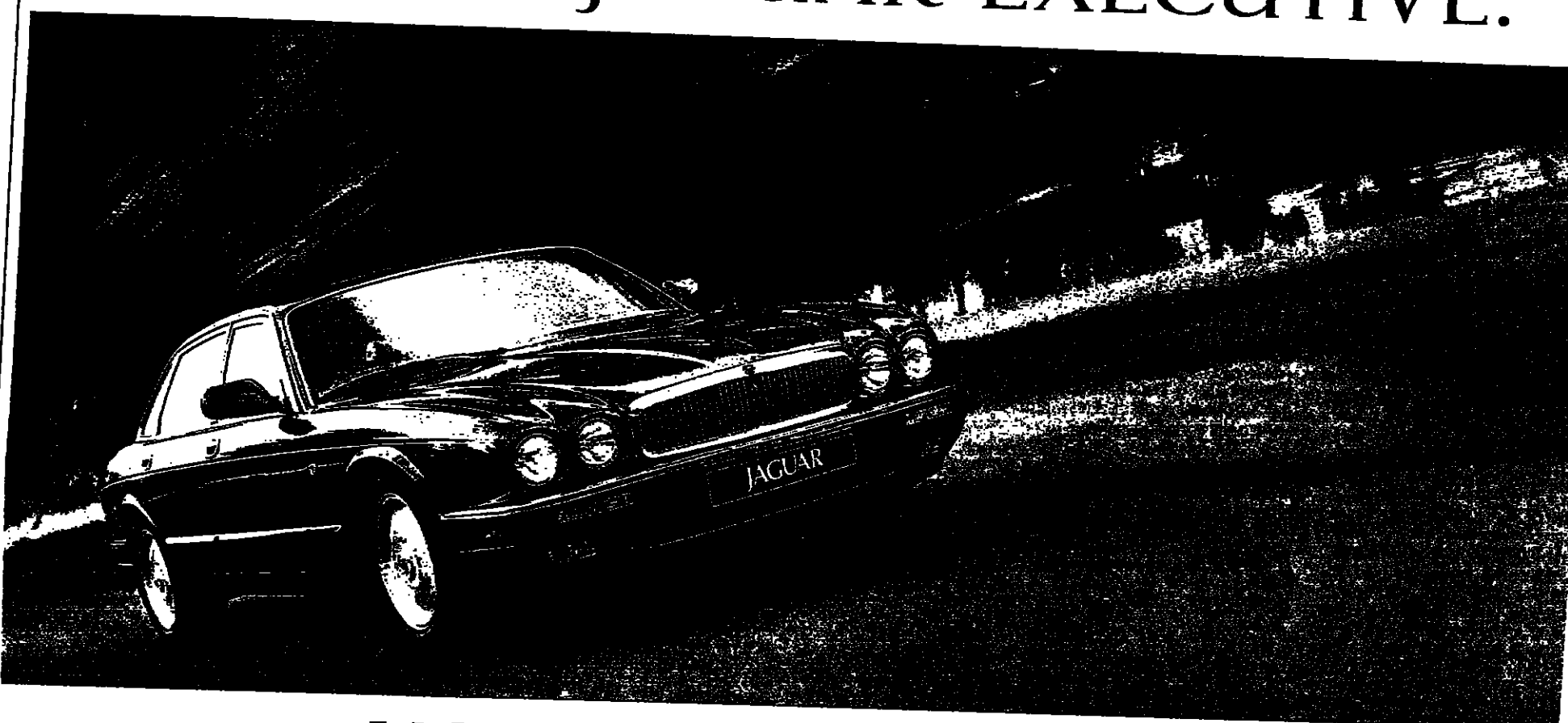
From A Correspondent in New York

AT&T's telephone equipment operation was formally demerged yesterday, to become an independent company called Lucent. In the largest US share offering to date, its shares immediately jumped more than 15 per cent.

Investor interest has been high in the company that is expected to capitalise on the growth in cellular telephones and other wireless communication devices. Lucent shares were up \$5 to \$32 shortly after trading began on the New York Stock Exchange.

The 112 million Lucent shares offered to the public were initially priced at \$27, making the overall stock offering worth \$3.02 billion. That surpasses the \$2.1 billion offering of Allstate in 1993. AT&T still owns 83 per cent of Lucent's overall 635.6 million shares. It will divide these among AT&T shareholders later this year. AT&T shares were up 25 cents to \$64.37.

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- Power windows with driver's one-touch down operation
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# Peps fund a firm end to the tax year for shares

SHARE prices ended the last day of the tax year on a high note as funds from private investors' personal equity plans began to filter back into the market.

Struggling off an early fall on Wall Street, the FT-SE 100 index closed just below its best of the day with a rise of 30.5 points at 3,755.6. Turnover grew to \$59 million shares, bolstered partly by a \$300 million worldwide buy program believed to have been carried out by Goldman Sachs, the US securities house.

Professional investors were taking a more cautious approach before the US non-farm payroll figures which are published today despite the fact that New York's financial markets are closed.

Last month's non-farm payroll numbers prompted a plunge of 177 points in the Dow Jones industrial average and scuppered any hopes of further cuts in US interest rates.

Business in London continued to be supported by speculative interest. Pearson, publisher of the *Financial Times*, rose 20p to 721p amid renewed talk of a break-up bid. On Wednesday, Cazenove, the company's broker, reiterated its buy stance on the shares.

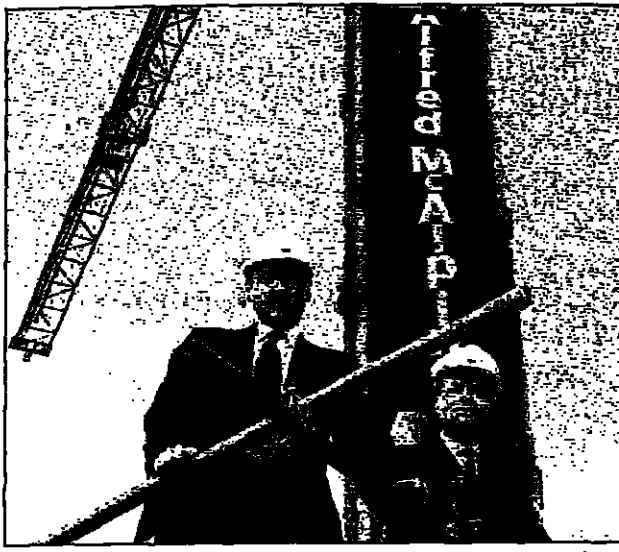
There was no sign of the expected announcement from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission if the two power bids for regional electricity companies could proceed.

PowerGen, up 6 1/2p to 549 1/2p, and National Power, 5p better at 42p, were both marked higher in anticipation of news that both companies had been given the go-ahead to bid for Southern Electric, 2p dearer at 87 1/2p, and Midlands Electricity, 1p cheaper at 388p.

The market view is that both bids will be allowed after several successful bids for regional electricity companies by US utilities.

There was speculative buying of those Recs that retain their independence, with East Midlands Electricity jumping 11p to 615p, London Electricity 20p to 795p and Yorkshire Electricity 15p to 857p. Speculators say we can expect further bids from across the pond.

Speculative buying also boosted the old Bower paper group. It was one of the best performers of the day among leading shares with a jump of 18p to 403 1/2p.



Oliver Whitehead, left, and Gavin Morris of McAlpine

almost 5 million shares changed hands. Dealers say the group is vulnerable to a bid, having seen its shares tumble from last year's high of 517p in the wake of one profits warning. Whispers around the market-place again suggest a bid from Alstom, the Swiss industrial giant.

BET continues to paint a rosy picture of prospects as its struggles to fend off the unwanted attention of Rentokil.

TLG, the former lighting arm of Thorn EMI, rose 3p to 145p supported by evidence of the management expressing confidence for the future. Malcolm Robertson, finance director, has paid £42,300 to top up his personal holding with an extra 30,000 shares at 141p. By the close, a total of 422,990 shares had been traded.

touch 324 1/2p before setting 2p better at 322p. Turnover reached almost 5 million shares. Brokers in London say the buying coincides with the start of trading each afternoon on Wall Street. Word is that another disposal may be about to be announced.

Avocet Mining struggled to make headway in first-time trading after a placing at 240p a share. The shares opened at

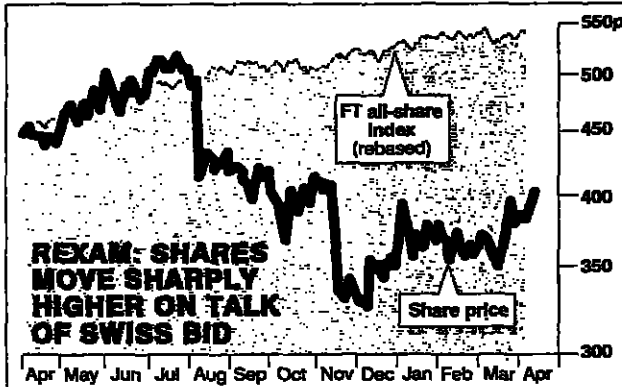
243p, briefly touched 245p and finished the at 243p. The group has interests in gold and tungsten mining. In this trading 34,273 shares changed hands, with traders making a price in 10,000 shares at a time.

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REKAM: SHARES MOVE SHARPLY HIGHER ON TALK OF SWISS BID

and a near-30 per cent rise in the current year.

But City speculators maintain that Rentokil has the edge and will only have to make a modest increase in the terms to win the day. Rentokil rose 6 1/2p to a new all-time high of 368 1/2p valuing the terms at 204 1/2p. BET shares finished 1 1/2p firmer at 207p.

Newcomer, Clubhaus, which owns and operates golf courses across Europe, firmed 1 1/2p to 64p. By the close of business almost 30 million shares had been traded.

Norcor, the building products group, firmed 1p to 86p after announcing plans to sell its Nor Systems labelling business to Sato, the Japanese group, for £21.4 million. Norcor is also in the process of selling off its printing business and relocating its headquarters.

Shares of Alfred McAlpine, the construction group where Oliver Whitehead is chief executive, firmed 4p to 178p despite plunging into the red last year. The group reported a small increase in pre-tax profits to £11.2 million up from £10.7 million in 1994, but that was wiped out by restructuring charges of almost £26 million. This related to the closure of its open-tender building business. Brokers said prospects for the current year were looking brighter.

The news from McAlpine follows better than expected trading news from Taylor Woodrow, lip lighter at 154p, and John Laing 'A', 2p better at 300p, earlier this week.

CLIP-EDGED: Prices were squeezed higher in late trading, having spent much of the day moving in narrow limits. The late gains were prompted by institutional investors squaring their positions before the tax year-end. But there appeared to be no rush to open fresh positions before publication of the US non-farm payroll numbers.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt finished £3 1/2 better at £108 1/2 in thin conditions that saw the number of contracts completed slump to just 14,000.

In long, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 rose 1/4 to 97 1/2, while at the shorter end of the market Treasury 8 per cent 2000 firmed a couple of ticks to 102 1/4 before ending unchanged.

NEW YORK: At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 0.72 at 5,689.02.

## MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):  
Dow Jones 5689.02 (-0.72)  
S&P Composite 506.37 (-0.49)

Tokyo:  
Nikkei Average 21471.16 (+6.43)

Hong Kong:  
Hang Seng Closed

Amsterdam:  
EOE Index 536.93 (+2.58)

Sydney:  
AO 2222.5 (+1.13)

Frankfurt:  
DAX 2495.18 (+0.78)

Singapore:  
Straits 2396.48 (+15.38)

Brussels:  
General 8875.32 (+1.97)

Paris:  
CAC-40 2074.06 (+10.06)

Zurich:  
SIX 774.60 (+2.03)

London:  
FT 30 2766.7 (-12.7)  
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## TEMPUS

# No peace at the pumps

MOTORISTS who grumble about paying an extra 2p a litre for petrol this morning can console themselves, knowing that retailers will gain little from higher prices. The war between the oil companies and the food retailers is far from over and increases from Esso and BP are no more than a reaction to movements on the Rotterdam spot market. A 2p rise in spot gasoline threatened to erode the already thin gross margins of petrol retailers, who responded with an upward adjustment.

Petrol retailing is in the throes of a big upheaval. This week's minor correction is unlikely to spell relief for the grocers, notwithstanding recent share price rallies. Petrol is big business for Tesco, accounting for 12 per cent of its sales and up to £60 million of profit. But aggressive discounting from Esso and others has cut gross margins in half and

Tesco could earn only £12 million from fuel this year.

For the oil majors, supermarkets are not the principal target. Food retailers have an insuperable advantage over stand-alone petrol stations, the former enjoying cheaper land and overheads from sharing a large supermarket site. The price war is a bigger threat to smaller players such as Elf or independents like Last Group, which Esso and BP would dearly love to drive off the pavement. If the majors could force a reduction in capacity, it might open the door to deals with food retailers. To secure long-term petrol supplies, the grocers could forge alliances with oil companies and share retailing sites. But that is a long way off. Gasoline is in abundant supply and the fight for customers will continue to damage retailing profits.

## A. McAlpine



## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Carol blows the whistle

SIR Denis Thatcher's daughter has at last brought her father's business acumen to light. As well as being chairman of the Atlas Preservation Company, later sold to Castrol Oil for £530,000, Sir Denis was also a rather lanky referee and a ruthless treasurer of the London Society of Rugby Football Union referees.

Appointed by union president Cyril Gadeny in 1956, Sir Denis immediately set about reorganising the accounts and administration. The balance was about £150 when he took over, and a huge £3,500 when he relinquished the post 12 years later. "It was a labour of love," Carol Thatcher writes in her new book called *Below the Parapet*.



Thatcher: rugby fan

WHILE anybody sane is enjoying the Bank Holiday, Norwich-based Virgin Direct is welcoming with open arms last-minute investors who have until midnight to apply for a Pep. Last year, a local investor drove 50 miles to deliver his completed Pep application, and another splashed out on a courier from Cornwall.

### Harvey glitch

HARVEY NICHOLS, the Sloane's favourite fashion supplier, was stylishly laid back at its flotation presentation yesterday. Because of a glitch at the printers, the prospectus never made the morning appointment and did not surface until later in the afternoon. To pacify those present, a marble-mouthed press officer handed out the glossy Harvey Nichols magazine. Super pics, but a bit short on price-earnings ratios, dividend yields, and trading prospects.

### Shame

CITY dealers were laying eggs yesterday after news that they would have to work on Good Friday. More than 100 dealers have been summoned, rather reluctantly, to cover London bond, equity and currency desks, in case the American markets react today to the March US employment figures. February's figures brought the Dow down 120 points late on a Friday evening.

### Rush job

ARBUTHNOT LATHAM may well be one of the oldest London private banks, but its idea of "personalised service" seems somewhat askew. When the bank opened a regional branch in Exeter last week, it was taken aback by the level of local interest and had to call in two City account managers to meet the rush. Colin Richmond-Watson was grabbed off the plane after a skiing holiday, and David Heath was forced to part from his wife who is expecting their first child.

### Web wonders

SURFERS on the Internet have until the end of this month to track President Clinton's whereabouts in the East. Courtesy of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, there is a page on the Internet recording Bill and Hillary's every step on their state visit to Japan between April 16-18.

MORAG PRESTON



Sailing into the sunset: operating profits of P&O ferries slumped by a third to £74.8 million last year and rationalisation is seen as inevitable

## All at sea over the choppy cross-Channel economics

Jonathan Prynn says the arrival of the tunnel has made ferry operators feel distinctly queasy

More Britons will head for the northern shores of France this weekend than almost any time since the Normandy landings. By the end of today, 20,000 vehicles and their drivers and passengers, plus cyclists, day trippers and rail travellers will have crossed the Channel in a middle class invasion that will have begun before dawn.

Over the course of the four-day Easter break, 200,000 people are expected to cross over or under the Channel to or from the hotels, auberges and gites of this country's nearest neighbour.

The cross-Channel market is one of the business phenomena of the 1990s. Few industries could swallow an overnight 50 per cent increase in capacity — as happened with the opening of the Channel Tunnel — without a catastrophic collapse of profit margins or huge rationalisation.

And yet the four main players — P&O European Ferries, Stena, Sea France and Eurotunnel — continue to defy financial gravity. For now, at least.

All four are feeling the pressure. Each would like one of the opposition to disappear. But while the market continues to grow, none is prepared to blink first. Why get out now when to do so only ensures survival and fat profits for those left behind?

Last year, the first full 12-month period since Eurotunnel opened its doors to custom, cross-Channel passenger traffic grew 25 per cent. That was enough to take up much of the capacity slack and encourage the ferry operators to invest in new, bigger and faster ships.

The economics of the madhouse, surely? But no, a further 14 per cent increase in the market has followed in the first quarter of 1996, despite the best efforts of the French Government's *franc fort* policy to deter foreign visitors. Last weekend, the start of the Easter school holiday period, once again saw all previous

records smashed. Eurotunnel's Le Shuttle carried a record 8,000 cars and coaches on Saturday March 30, easily beating the peak of last summer. Over the Friday to Sunday period, more than 23,000 tourist vehicles passed through the Channel Tunnel.

It was a good weekend, too, for the ferry operators. They needed it after a winter season rough in all respects. Consistently poor weather meant higher than usual levels of cancelled sailings, providing perfect free marketing for the tunnel. The strong franc and the abolition of visitors' passports were also blamed for patchy winter bookings on the ferries.

But, as ever, it will be the summer season that determines the future of the industry. Another bonanza, as seems likely, and the long expected rationalisation will be postponed for at least another year.

But if enthusiasm for crossing the Channel starts to fizzle out, anything could happen. Among the more probable options, Eurotunnel could be put into liquidation by its long-suffering banks. That would not close the tunnel, but a

significant write-off of debt and a restructuring of the company's finances to put them on a secure footing could give Eurotunnel's new management a far freer hand to fight a long price war.

It is also conceivable that one of the ferry operators could fail or withdraw, although it is difficult to see which. All are owned by organisations with seriously deep pockets that appear to be playing the long game.

Stena, owner of the old Sealink business, is owned by a Swedish multinational group that has invested tens of millions of pounds in modernising its cross-Channel fleet of five vessels.

Its former partner, the French state-owned Sna, broke away last year to set up its own operation under the Sea France brand name.

With the backing of the French Government behind it, Sea France can take its time building up its business, and is unlikely to be driven out of the market by short-term losses.

Hoverspeed and Sea Cat also each have their well established slices of the market and show few signs of

pulling out. That leaves P&O European Ferries, still the second biggest player with about 30 per cent of the passenger market and 25 sailings a day. Lord Sterling, the P&O Group chairman, announced last month that the ferry division's operating profits had slumped by a third to £74.8 million last year.

He added: "I think it is inevitable that there will be some rationalisation of the various ferry operations between the UK and the Continent over the next year or two. P&O will play a pro-active part in this."

For now, the ferry companies are legally barred from talking to each other by an anti-cartel undertaking given to the Government in the 1970s by Townsend Thoresen, the company that became P&O European Ferries, and by Sealink, which was taken over by Stena. Lord Sterling has called for the undertakings to be removed to pave the way for the mergers, pooling agreements or withdrawal of vessels that he believes are necessary on the route. It is still difficult to see quite how that process will be triggered, even without the constraint of the undertakings.

Graham Dunlop, the head of P&O's ferries division, is adamant that the market is continuing to grow fast enough to remain stable for the rest of this year. Little incentive there to rush into any precipitate action.

Chris Laming, a Stena spokesman, also sees little change this year. "This is a very profitable service and there is still a hell of a lot out there to play for," he says.

The company is this summer bringing into service the Stena Emperor, at 25,000 tonnes, the biggest passenger ferry to operate on the Dover-



The Channel Tunnel is now operating at record levels

### BUSINESS LETTERS

#### Devaluation is the price we have paid for jobs record

From Denis MacShane MP. Sir, Amongst all the reasons to be given at the Lille G7 summit on employment for Britain doing better than France and Germany in the past three years, surely the most compelling is devaluation. [A lesson from Britain in cutting unemployment?]

The British pound has lost between 20 and 25 per cent of its value compared with the strong European currencies

since the end of 1992. The trebling since 1991 of taxpayers' subsidies (now running at £3 billion and projected to rise to £10 billion early in the next century) to support low-pay jobs via the benefits system has also helped employment but only on the economically distorting basis of a government subsidy to firms able to undercut their fair-pay competitors by paying wages of £2 an hour or less.

I suppose the Germans and

French could follow the UK's example and devalue their currencies by 25 per cent and reduce the purchasing power of their populations by wage reductions, switching from full-time to part-time and temporary work, or by using taxpayers' money to subsidise low-pay firms, but what would this do to demand for British exports to Europe?

Yours sincerely, DENIS MACSHANE, House of Commons, SW1.

#### Surveyors must keep standards

From Stuart Cliffe. Sir, In "Chartered surveyors come under pressure from banks" (Business letters, March 29) Mr Ian V Oddy comments on the possibility that surveyors are under pressure to increase mortgage valuations on domestic property.

The implication that some institutions are interfering with professional property valuations on any scale is frightening, and surveyors will do well to avoid the potential professional liability trap which may follow.

Purchasers as well as lenders may be disappointed if valuations are low, but purchasers have no protection other than responsible professional representation. Surveyors should not lower their standards for any supposed commercial advantage.

Yours faithfully, STUART CLIFFE, Chief Executive, National Association of Bank Customers, Llantony Secunda Manor, Church Road, Caldicot, Gwent.

## When PR is more than an exercise

Janet Bush on the Government's total mishandling of the British beef crisis

The public relations industry has looked on with dismay at the Government's handling of the beef crisis. Not only have ministers failed to call on the professionals for help — they appear to have broken every rule in the book. Experts have plenty of examples to illustrate the right way to handle a case of risk to the public health... and the wrong way.

Perrier is remembered as a series of public relations mis-steps. Perrier's crisis came in the 1980s with the discovery of benzene in its bottled mineral water. The company dithered for three days before being virtually forced into recalling its fizzy water by the Food and Drug Administration in America.

To make matters worse, when the company re-launched Perrier, it put on sale 750ml bottles for the price of its previous 1 litre bottle. Michael Regester of Regester Larkin, a PR firm specialising in crisis management, said: "Perrier was effectively trying to get the punter to pay for its own corporate mistake and it never recovered its market share."

About a year later, Perrier was taken over by Nestlé. The brand was preserved but the company itself did not survive. A little footnote to the whole affair is that it was Yorkshire Water which flushed away the unwanted bottles of Perrier through its sewage treatment plants.

A shining example of how to handle public relations was in America. Some Tylenol pain-relieving tablets had been laced with cyanide. Seven people died. Johnson and Johnson, the pharmaceutical company, immediately withdrew Tylenol from shelves across the nation despite the fact that the poisoning was done by one individual in one area of the country and that the bulk of the product was safe.

At the time, the FDA was clamouring for tamper-proof packaging. Far from hurrying to get its product back on the shelves, Johnson and Johnson waited until it had perfected new tamper-proof bottles and then relaunched to tumultuous applause. The nation's

leading newspapers hailed the company as a symbol of how corporate America should behave. Tylenol's market share returned to its previous level and then exceeded it.

The lesson of these cases is that the company — or Government — should take the financial hit early, be honest and put the customer first to maintain a sense of trust. Most fundamental of all is the need to have put in place first-class contingency plans. Rosemary Brook, president of the Institute of Public Relations, said: "Think through the worst that can happen and then plan for it in terms of operations and communications."

Ms Brook believes that the BSE case is quite different — and much more tortuous to deal with — than other health scares because there are no easy ways to work out the exact level of risk so that the public can make informed choices. However, she believes that the British Government has fallen down badly in its handling of the scare. It should not have been so categorical in the past that there was no threat to human beings. Given that the possibility of a risk had been mooted for a

decade or so, the Government should have planned for the moment when the scientists came up with evidence, even partial. As it was, it seems that the Government got the latest evidence from the scientists and appointed Ogilvy & Mather, the advertising agency, to run a campaign extolling the safety of beef. The plans were leaked. Stephen Dorrell, the Health Minister, was bounced into announcing the new evidence to Parliament the very next day and the Government has been on the back foot ever since.

Ms Brook believes that there is no substitute, when such scares erupt in the private sector, for a good corporate reputation for quality and trustworthiness. "In this case, we had a government in the middle of a political meltdown and not the highest reputation on which to draw when trouble came," she said.

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# GEC wins support for sonar merger

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

BRITAIN and France yesterday gave their blessing to a merger of the sonar interests of the General Electric Company and Gec-Marconi to create the world's largest maker of underwater monitoring equipment.

In submissions to the European Commission, they asked for the link-up to be exempted from competition controls because the deal concerns issues of national security. The request was made under Article 223 of the Treaty of Rome, the foundation document for the European Union.

Support from the two Governments reflects the accelerating pace of consolidation in the European defence industry. After years of unashamedly promoting its national champions at deepening cost to the French taxpayer, the Government of Jacques Chirac has this year accepted the need to create cross-border companies to match the economies of scale enjoyed by rivals in the United States.

Although the EU has powers to examine non-military aspects of the deal, as it did when GEC acquired VSEL, the Barrow-in-Furness submarine builder, in 1994, the two companies are dominated by their military interests.

Discussions about deepening the sonar alliance between the biggest defence electronics groups in Britain and France were interrupted by the abrupt departure of Alain Gomez, the chairman of Thomson-CSF, the military arm of Thomson, in February.

The French Government rode roughshod over M Gomez's plans for a full merger between Thomson-CSF and GEC-Marconi, the military arm of Gec-Marconi. It

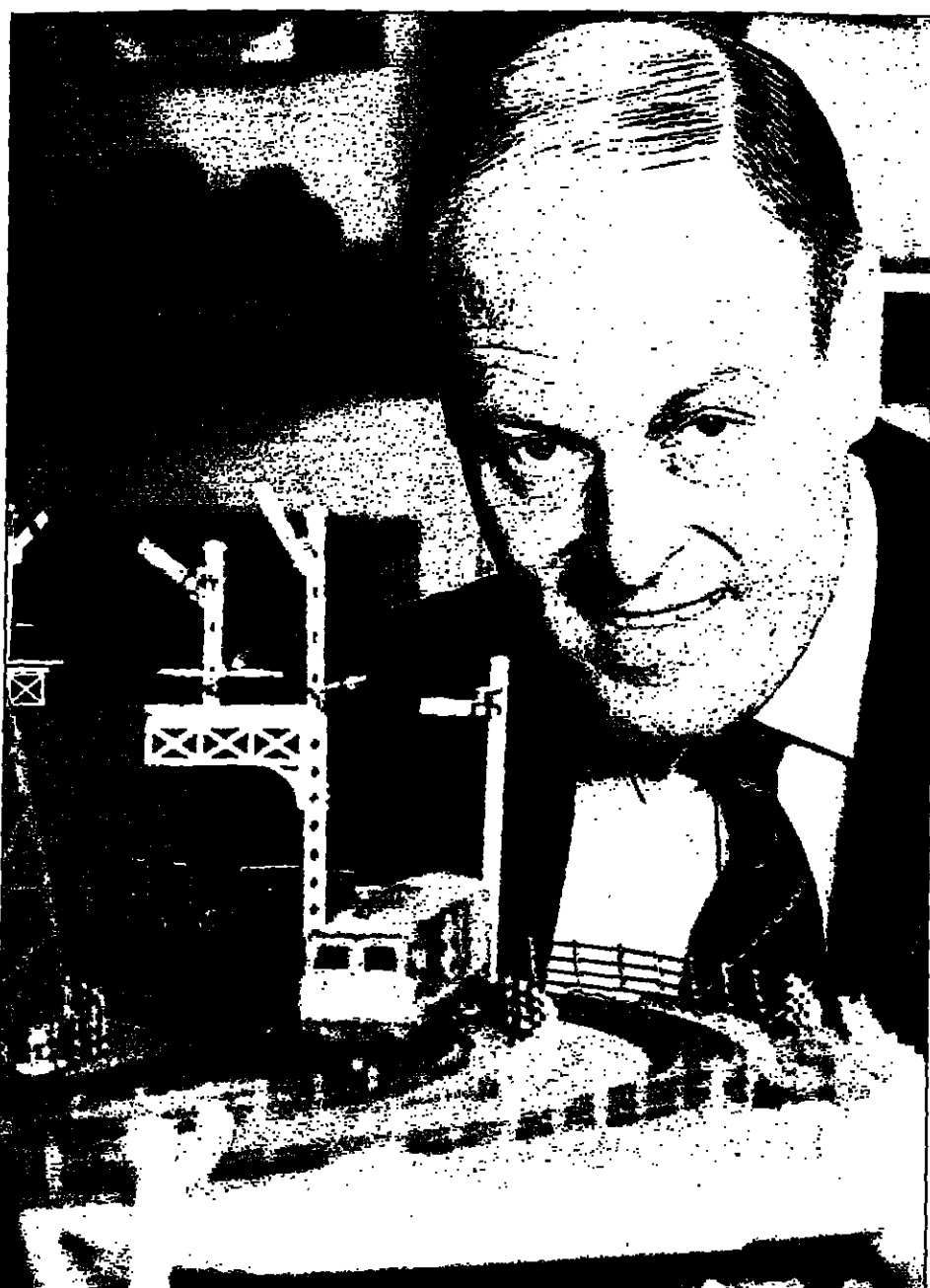
decided instead to merge Thomson-CSF with its consumer electronics sister company, Thomson Multimedia, and privatise them jointly later this year.

Under arrangements confirmed yesterday, the partners will form a company based in The Netherlands called Thomson Marconi Sonar, which will be owned 50.1 per cent by Thomson and 49.9 per cent by GEC. Thomson Marconi Sonar will have annual revenues of Fr2.7 billion (£360 million) and some 3,500 employees. The business will be the world leader in the manufacture of sound-monitoring systems for warships, submarines, aircraft and minesweepers.

The core of the new business will be Ferranti-Thomson Sonar Systems, an existing joint venture in Stockport, Cheshire. This will be controlled by the new Dutch holding company, together with GEC's independently owned sonar business, GEC-Marconi Sonar Systems, based at Templecombe in Devon and Rochester, Kent, which will be renamed Thomson Marconi Sonar. The two businesses will be run in tandem.

In Australia, Thomson Sintra Pacific will be merged with the sonar business of GEC-Marconi Systems, reporting to Holland. Thomson, meanwhile, will inject its Thomson Sintra Activites Sonar business at Brest, renamed Thomson Marconi Sonar, into the Dutch holding company.

The venture marks a growing rapprochement between the two companies, which are also allied to develop a common replacement radar for the French Rafale fighter aircraft and the Eurofighter plane being developed by Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain.



Hornby Group has yet to settle with Keith Ness, former chief executive, ousted last year

## Hornby signals a £4m loss

By Martin Barrow

HORNBY GROUP, the toy and model railway company, revealed that it has yet to settle with Keith Ness, ousted as chief executive last October.

Mr Ness, whose basic salary was £113,000 in 1994, was on a three-year contract and is believed to be claiming his full entitlement of about £339,000. But yesterday the company said it sought to agree a settlement with Mr Ness "at a lower figure".

In 1994 Mr Ness waived £150,000 of a bonus and in

1993 he received a £100,000 bonus but waived £50,000.

Yesterday the company, which is changing its financial year-end, disclosed a pre-tax loss of £4.3 million in second interim figures for the year to December 31, against a £611,000 profit in 1994.

The deficit, which followed a warning earlier this year that its performance would be below market expectations, was due in part to redundancy costs and to writing off an investment in an American

toymaker. The sale of the loss-making Fletcher sports boats companies for £315,000 resulted in a £4.06 million write-off.

Peter Newey, chairman, said turnover rose 7 per cent to £33.6 million (£31.3 million), while operating profits on continuing operations rose 52 per cent to £1.61 million. Earnings per share, excluding exceptional items, were 9.45p (9.45p). A dividend statement will not be made until results for 15 months to March 31 are unveiled.

## Reckitt sells US firms for \$123m

By Martin Barrow

RECKITT & COLMAN, the UK consumer products company, has raised \$123 million through the sale of the personal products division of its American subsidiary.

The buyer is JW Childs Associates, an investment management firm based in Massachusetts. An initial consideration of \$108 million in cash is due on completion. The balance is covered by a subordinated loan note payable in seven and a half years.

The sale includes brands such as Ogilvie Home Permanents, Chubs baby wipes, Wet Ones moist towelettes and Diaperene baby care products, which are mainly sold in America.

In 1995 the division earned trading profits of \$10 million on turnover of \$110 million. Net tangible assets were \$30 million at December 30. Reckitt & Colman will use the proceeds to reduce borrowings.

The company's plan to sell the personal products division was announced last year and follows a decision to focus resources on core household product categories.

## Approval for new oilfield in North Sea

PLANS for the development of a new oilfield in the central North Sea have received approval from the Department of Trade and Industry. Amerada Hess and its co-venturers will develop the Durward field which has estimated recoverable reserves of 50 million barrels of oil.

First oil is expected to flow early next year, reaching peak production of 38,000 barrels of oil per day shortly after. Francis Gugen, Amerada Hess managing director, said: "This puts Durward on course to be our fastest stand alone development yet with a planned time from discovery to first oil of under three and a half years." The main co-venturers in the project are Amerada Hess, Santa Fe Exploration, and DSM Energy.

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Second Euro Disney conference centre

EURO DISNEY has begun the construction of a second conference centre, costing Fr150 million, designed to offset periods of low hotel occupancy at the theme park outside Paris. Gilles Pelisson, managing director, said conferences currently generated hotel occupancy of between 5 per cent and 10 per cent of the annual total. More than 1,100 conferences were staged in Disneyland Paris in 1995.

Occupancy of the resort's seven hotels is a key factor in the Disneyland site and accounted for sales of Fr1.8 billion of the company's total 1995 turnover of Fr4.7 billion. The new centre is expected to generate 35,000 extra hotel nights and Fr50 million in sales in its first year, rising to 50,000 hotel nights and Fr90 million when it is fully operational.

## Butterkist for Trebor

TREBOR BASSETT, a subsidiary of Cadbury Schweppes, is to buy the UK confectionery and popcorn business of Portfolio Foods, which trades as Craven Kellier for an undisclosed sum. Craven Kellier is a sugar confectionery and popcorn business that manufactures and sells branded and private label toffees, boiled sweets, popcorn and chocolate confectionery. Key brands include Kellier, Barker and Dobson, Craven and Butterkist. It has two manufacturing sites and employs about 700 people. Sales in the financial year 1994-95 were £42 million and net assets at March 31 were £12 million.

## Friendly Hotels loss

FRIENDLY HOTELS reported a full-year loss of £6.25 million, down from a 1994 profit of £3.65 million, but is optimistic about prospects after signing an £11 million partnership with Choice Hotels of America. Friendly blamed its loss on a £9.6 million charge to cover selling its office servicing division. Turnover rose by 8 per cent, to £42 million. The total dividend remains 5.7p, with an unchanged 3.5p final due on August 16. Friendly, under the partnership, is to split the roles of chairman and chief executive and have two non-executive directors from Choice.

## Norwich custody deal

NORWICH UNION has become the latest financial institution to ask a third party to take over custody services, appointing Bank of New York as custodian for its £11 billion UK portfolio. A growing number of banks and financial services companies are using third parties as they find they are unable to achieve economies of scale themselves. The Prudential awarded the UK's biggest ever custody contract in January when it asked Midland Bank and Mellon Bank of the US to take over custodian services for a £45 billion portfolio.

## Division shares rise

SHARES in Division Group rose 7p to 74p after the company unveiled a distribution agreement with America's EDS, the information services provider, which is to sell Division's virtual reality software in North America, Europe and the Far East. Charles Grimsdale, managing director of Division, said: "This will give us access to a major new tier of clients worldwide." Ely Marsh, head of EDS' Virtual Reality Centre in Belgium, said: "Virtual Reality is becoming an essential part of the services offering to our Fortune 500 client base."

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**MUSIC 1**

**Philip Pickett and his New London Consort revive a medieval Italian liturgical drama**



**MUSIC 2**

**Gidon Kremer gives the Festival Hall a magnificent performance of Schnittke**

**THE TIMES ARTS**



**RADIO**

**Homage to the supreme jazz voice: Radio 2 opens up the Ella Fitzgerald Songbooks**



**THEATRE**

**A fine new play, Clare McIntyre's *The Thickness of Skin*, goes on stage at the Royal Court**

# Ancient lesson in the lost arts of faith

In the heart of cynical, worldly London, this was a strange spectacle. A dozen figures in white cassocks entered the Queen Elizabeth Hall, carrying palms and chanting a medieval Latin hymn. A shrouded cross was paraded before an engrossed crowd. Then soloists acted out various liturgical dramas of the Crucifixion and Resurrection, following the music, texts and stage directions written down, six centuries ago in an Italian village.

Broken only by the occasional decorated drone from an organ, the hypnotic flow of chant stretched for two hours. Yet nobody in the packed hall so much as blinked, lest the spell be broken.

Was this entertainment, or worship? A reconstruction of a dusty old rite — scrupulously researched and beautifully sung, perhaps, but artificial nonetheless? Or a religious message to a modern Britain where humanist or materialist impulses usually prevail? The answer is surely that Wednesday's superb performance — by the New London Consort directed by Philip Pickett — was all of these things.

There are many good musical reasons to account for the incredible boom in performances of medieval, Renaissance and Baroque music in recent years. Clearly, some music-lovers seized upon ancient splendours because they could discover little beauty in the music of our own age. But there is surely also a spiritual dimension to this extraordinary quest for the Holy Grail of "exact historical reconstruction". It is as if, by reproducing the circumstances of ancient

**Great sacred music rises above religious divisions, says Richard Morrison**

performances as precisely as possible, we feel that we can rekindle the fires of faith that burnt so strongly then, but flicker so fitfully now.

On Good Friday that process is seen at its most intense. Bach's *Passions* and Handel's *Messiah* will today carry millions towards the heart of the Gospel message. Many listeners will be sceptical of Christianity's claims. But for the three hours that the music lasts they will be believers.

Are they nothing more than victims of a highbrow contrick? So it may seem. Music is a powerful medium, touching parts of us that words cannot reach. The Church was quick to exploit this power — and quick to suppress it, too, when the priests believed (as in the Counter-Reformation) that composers were becoming dangerously hooked on expressing human emotion, rather than on contemplating divine mystery. A Marxist (if any still exists) would argue that Western culture's vast heritage of sacred music owes less to any religious impulse than to the need to earn a living when the Church held the monopoly on serious musical performance.

But it is hard to sustain that view when the transcendental majesty of the greatest Good Friday and Easter music is measured against the gruesome circumstances of the composers' lives. William Byrd produced his sublime motets while in terror of Elizabeth I's spies. Heinrich Schütz wrote the first great Lutheran passion music while the Thirty Years' War reduced all around him to desolation. Carlo Gesualdo, Renaissance prince and wife-murderer, transcended the nightmare of his own waking reality by composing liturgical music of such chromatic intensity that it startles listeners even today. Mahler, whose wretched childhood was scarred by death, wrote his exultant *Resurrection Symphony* in defiance of all mundane logic.

And doubtless those anonymous medieval Italians responsible for the beautiful melodies heard in the Queen Elizabeth Hall also led lives that were nasty, brutish and short. Yet when we listen to their testament we sense none of that. Instead we are transported into regions of the soul that we have lost the knack of finding by ourselves.

Easter music may seem restricted by its specifically Christian imagery. But the message is surely universal: lift your eyes to the hills, to the greater questions, away from the trivia that clutter our frantic modern lives. What is our purpose? What will become of us? Those timeless queries are fundamental to all great art. Whatever our beliefs, they are matters that we should confront at least once every year.



*The Virgin of the Passion*, painted by the Cretan artist Emmanouel Tzanes in about 1636, is one of the icons currently being exhibited in *After Byzantium: The Survival of Byzantine Sacred Art* at the Hellenic Centre (16 Paddington St, London W1, 0171-487 5060, until May 2). A similar exhibition of Greek sacred art, *A Passion for Icons*, is running at the Maria Andipa & Son Gallery (162 Walton St, London SW3, 0171-589 2371, until April 20)

## Creative thinking

A WEEK of several mysteries, as seems entirely appropriate in the approach to Easter, had as its highlight Wednesday night's opener in a five-part series called *Science and Wonders*, which explores the relationship between God and science. This is a real gem. The air is full of articulate argument and imaginative flights in the opening, documentary section of the programme, which provides high-grade fuel for the following studio discussion.

Professor Russell Stannard introduces the programmes, which are journeys through cosmology, evolution and consciousness. Big Bang versus Creation is a shorthand way of describing the brief, but as those theories are not mutually exclusive the extremes of the debate prove to be far less interesting than the myriad byways in between.

The week's other mystery is where on the BBC dial does jazz belong?

Jazz Notes has been satisfying the late-night ear for a long time on Radio 2, so why is the new series that started on Monday on Radio 3? Terry Carter, the producer, says the move will "offer a little more scope for the repertoire of our in-concert studio recordings".

I suspect someone was about to say that the redefined Radio 3 offers a natural home for jazz, only to retrieve the words from the tip of their tongue upon noticing another new series, *The Ella Fitzgerald Songbooks*. This is transmitted on, er, Radio 2.

Whatever the reasons for this strange juxtaposition, the Fitzgerald series is a welcome reprise for the supreme jazz voice of my lifetime, a woman whose technical brilliance illuminated but never overshadowed the lyrical content.

God, Big Bang, mad schedulers and Ella. A week like this should come every seven days.

PETER BARNARD

### CONCERTS: Performances of Schnittke and Bach on the South Bank

## Russian mood swings

Philharmonia/  
Eschenbach  
Festival Hall

THE adventurous, well-planned, all-Russian programme given on Tuesday night by Christoph Eschenbach and the Philharmonia Orchestra began, as it ended, with an orchestral showpiece. The opener, Prokofiev's *Classical Symphony*, is trickier to bring off than it sounds. Players as proficient as those of the Philharmonia have little difficulty with the notes, but those hurtling figures on strings and wind depend on absolute unanimity for maximum effect.

There were moments when the edges seemed a little blurred, but Eschenbach set up some sparkling dialogues with wittily pointed rhythms. At the other end of the programme was Tchaikovsky's fantasia *Francesca da Rimini*, in which the infernal whirlwind was depicted by the Philharmonia strings with electrifying vehemence.

You will recall that having been married against her will to a hunchback, Francesca falls for his more favourably endowed brother, Paolo, and the two are consigned to the second circle of hell as punishment for their carnal sin. The lovers I would consign there would be the pair canoodling in front of me on Tuesday night throughout Gidon Kremer's magnificent performance of Schnittke's disturbing Violin Concerto No 4.

Kremer's undernourished, edgy tone is not always to my taste, but in this characteristically macabre witches' brew it was perfect. At the beginning a reassuringly archaic-sounding wind chorale is countered by a disorientating off-key commentary on solo violin. As the second movement, *moto perpetuo* moves to its climax, one notices Kremer's bent knees, contorted body and demonic demeanour. But then one notices that he is miming the gestures of a possessed man: the ironic distancing is at once comic and sinister.

Kremer also had a solo role in two movements of Tchaikovsky's *Sleeping Beauty*, as arranged by Stravinsky, and for his own arrangement of excerpts from a virtually unknown opera called *The Blackamoor of Peter the Great* by the (on this evidence) unjustly neglected Russian composer Arthur Vincent Lourie.

BARRY MILLINGTON

## A fine score draw

OAE/Leonhardt  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

BACH's cantata *The Contest between Phoebus and Pan* is a wonderful celebration of the folly of musical competition. Nobody makes the mountains skip and the deer dance like Pan, while Phoebus, the sun god, excels in the Apollonian virtues of luminosity. Each does his own thing incomparably well, so the last laugh is on the adjudicators, especially poor old Midas, who is given a pair of donkey's ears and sent packing.

The South Bank audience was doubtless conducting its own straw poll on Tuesday. Were their affections with David Wilson-Johnson's Pan, dancing and springing his way through the consonants of the bucolic aria later adapted by Bach for his *Peasant Cantata*? Or were they seduced by Max von Egmond's aristocratic Phoebus, "full of longing"?

With Gustav Leonhardt discreetly conducting the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, nudging accents into

and out of place and cusing in the zephyr-like flutes, there was plenty of delicious distraction. John Elwes hee-hawed his way through Midas's aria with perfectly judged wit, while Timolus, a more dignified adjudicator, was well cast in the eloquent tenor of John Mark Ainsley. Countertenor Ralf Popken, meanwhile, was as mercurial as his name.

Monika Frimmer, who mischievously directed the proceedings as Momus, god of laughter and wit, sang with penetrating purity of tone and a wide smile even in the evening's earlier cantata. In this case, the beaming flattery was directed at *Illustrious Leopold* in the "Serenade". Bach wrote as a gloriously obsequious birthday gift for his employer, Prince Leopold of Anhalt-Cöthen.

Here, Leonhardt defused both the pomp and the circumstance of the piece by balancing minutely pointed, mobile string and wind phrasing with the light, firm tread of his continuo section. He allowed the bass (Wilson-Johnson) and soprano duet the most modest of cringes per pair of shuddered notes, while the flutes purred out their phrases of flattery.

In between these two nicely un-lenten cantatas came Bach's *Concerto in C* for three violins: Elizabeth Wallfisch, Catherine Mackintosh and Alison Bury drawing the loudest applause of the evening.

HILARY FINCH

## Modern Samaritans in a moral maze

LITTLE did I know, as I strode past a bloodshot beggar in Sloane Square feeling accused and mean, that I was en route to a play about the same predicament. What is to be done with the lunatic who invades character A's house, shoving Christmas cards into his hand while making paranoid threats against her own family? What can be done for the homeless man whom character B has allowed to kip in her home over Yuletide? Search me. Search Clare McIntyre, whose troubled, caring piece *The Thickness of Skin* is.

This is McIntyre's first play since the excellent *My Heart's a Suitcase* in 1990, and it is recognisably from the same sensibility. That was about the corrosive effects of greed on the privileged and the effects of greed on the damaged and confused caused by need. At one extreme is Rupert Frazer's smugish extreme is Michael, who pays his taxes and fills his

### The Thickness of Skin Theatre Upstairs

hapless son's head with the gospel of "getting on". At the other is his sister, Amelia Bullmore's Laura, a divorced teacher whose philanthropy extends to giving housework to Eddie, an unemployed carpenter she has met in a hostel.

Once upon a time, a Royal Court play on such a theme would have contained lots of righteous and possibly priggish attitudes. McIntyre is far too intelligent for that. Mark Strong's Eddie, although not undeserving of sympathy, has done some pretty self-destructive things and is not very self-critical. Laura fancies him, yet genuinely wants to help,

yet wishes to feel good about helping, yet does not want to play the saint, yet hopes to prod him out of his lethargy, yet knows she must not control or patronise him, yet, yet, yet. Such is the hurly-burly of the charitable soul these days.

This is a complex and absorbing play, in which every member of Hettie Macdonald's cast rises to the challenge of the characterisation. As Michael's wife, Elizabeth Garvie radiates the resentment that comes from feeling morally defensive; as the intrusive old schizophrenic who girlishly vamps her teenage son, Maggie McCarthy is painfully hard to like, let alone help. But mainly I'll remember Bullmore's Laura: plucky, apologetic, defiant, earnest, touching and, in her contradictions, very much a figure for our difficult times.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

## THE SUNDAY TIMES BETRAYAL OF CHILDHOOD

Technology daily multiplies the choice of entertainment available to children. But most programming and publishing is aimed at adults, leaving young viewers bewildered or terrified. This Sunday, *The Culture* looks at how to restore the media balance in the child's favour



### ON TOUR WITH TINA

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POP 5

Welcome to Steve Earle, Nashville hellraiser (but not so much these days)



POP 6

Svengali for a generation? That's what Lawrence would like you to think about him

THE TIMES POP ARTS



POP 7

Starting a new tour. Meat Loaf looked and sounded well past his sell-by date



TOMORROW

Reviews of the new single from Mansun, and other new pop, jazz and classical CDs

Country-rocker Steve Earle switched tracks, and feels all the better for it. David Sinclair reports

# New habit for Earle of excess

If you want to get an idea of what Steve Earle is like, consider that, at the age of 41, the man has been married six times. That is an average of one marriage or divorce for every two years of his adult life. Whether he is an incurable romantic or simply hell to live with (probably both), the Nashville-based songwriter and singer is clearly a man driven by an unusually impulsive and compulsive nature.

"I'm not scared of commitment," he says, without apparent irony, in relation to his experiences as a serial husband. "That's part of an addict's personality. I guess I was addicted to being in love."

The words "addict" and "addicted" are rarely far from Earle's lips or his thoughts. His new album is called *I Feel Alright* and he spends a lot of time, both on the record and in conversation,

telling you that that is indeed how he does feel since serving a 60-day prison sentence on a drugs charge, during which he finally stopped taking heroin for the first time since he was a teenager.

It is one of the most telling albums he has made, combining timeless love songs such as *Valentine's Day* and *You're Still Standin' There*, with uplifting blasts of roots-rock, including *The Unrepentant and Hard-Core Troubadour*, that recall the sound of his biggest-selling album, *Copperhead Road*, released in 1988. *I Feel Alright* is also tinged with a midnight-dark shade of country-blues, from the Robert Johnson-style acoustic rag, *South Nashville Blues*, to the starkly confessional *CKMP* (*Cocaine Cannot Kill My Pain*), a junkie's ode to heroin sung through a haze of National Resonator guitar and a droning harmonium that bears a passing resemblance to Indian sitar music. "Heroin is the only thing that only gift the darkness brings."

"I wrote that song in the middle of the night when I was still on dope," Earle says. "It's written from an addict's standpoint. Once I'd cleaned up I thought about not recording it, and then I thought about not including it on the album. But this record was done at a critical point in my life."

and it was a song that needed to be there."

Earle can practically set his watch by the time that he came off heroin ("It was 18 months ago on the 13th of March"), and he refers to himself on several occasions as "still not that well". He does not trust himself to venture into certain cities on his own — New York, Los Angeles, Sydney, London — fearing that the ready availability of heroin on their streets might yet prove too great a temptation.

Born in Fort Monroe, Virginia, Earle grew up as one of five children in San Antonio and Houston, Texas. Like many a pop fan he listened to the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and Bob Dylan, but also keyed in with equal enthusiasm to the greats of country music — Buck Owens, Hank Williams et al — and local Texan heroes, notably Townes Van Zandt and Guy Clark.

Instead of taking the conventional route to rock'n'roll stardom, he moved to Nashville at the age of 19, with a view to making his way as a songwriter. Ten years later, after hearing his compositions recorded by Carl Perkins, Waylon Jennings and others, Earle finally released his own, brilliant debut album, *Guitar Town*.

Although it did as much as any album to dig country music out of its mid-1980s rut, Earle's rock leanings meant that he never fitted in with the ensuing wave of "New Country" acts, such as Dwight Yoakam and Randy Travis. Instead, by the time of his third album, the million-selling *Copperhead Road*, he and Nashville had arrived at a state of uneasy co-existence.

"I have nothing to do with the newfound prosperity in country music, although a lot of people like to get their pictures taken with me these days," he says drily.

Dropped by his record label, MCA, after the release of *The Hard Way* in 1990, Earle found himself unable to function thanks to his escalating drug habit. "I went to discuss a new record deal with various labels and I realised I didn't have a record in me."

Now, after an absence of almost



"I went to discuss a new record deal and didn't have a record in me," says Steve Earle of his years on drugs

four years, he is having to start virtually from scratch. His comeback album, *Train A Comin'*, was released last year on a tiny independent label in America where, despite unanimously glowing reviews, it sold a mere 20,000 copies, fewer than in Britain.

But Earle remains undaunted. He has a keen interest in the business of selling records and an amazing grasp of detail, and has since started his own record label, E Squared. He has already signed a group called the Viceroyes ("A pop band with country overtones") with whom he has collaborated on an EP titled *Johnny Too Bad*. And he is back on the road with his own backing band, the Dukes, for the first time in five years.

Reunited on stage with the *Copperhead Road* rhythm section of Kelley Looney (bass) and Custer (drums), together with a young, hot-shot guitarist called David Steele and Mark Stuart on keyboards, mandolin and guitar, Earle is unquestionably back on prime form. His two-and-a-half-hour show features a couple of unusual Rolling Stones covers, *Take It Or Leave It* and *Dead Flowers*, which he describes as "a perfect British hillbilly song".

His composition, *Ellis Unit One*, more than holds its own next to tracks by Bruce Springsteen, Johnny Cash and Tom Waits on the acclaimed *Dead Man Walking* album, and, in sharp contrast to the low productivity of his drug years, he has

already started work on his next album. But even that has brought its worries. "I'm enjoying myself in the studio to the point where I'm having to watch myself to make sure I don't become a studio addict," Earle says. "I've even had to make a rule that I don't work on Saturdays and Sundays. My wife was getting irritated by it..."

● Steve Earle and the Dukes play Cambridge (April 28), Nottingham (29), Birmingham (30), York (May 2), Glasgow (4), Belfast (5), Dublin (6), Glasgow (6), Manchester (9), London (12, 13)  
● The album *I Feel Alright* is available on E Squared/Transatlantic  
● The EP *Johnny Too Bad*, by Steve Earle and the Viceroyes, is released on April 22 by E Squared/Transatlantic

# Felt? Denim? Suits you, sir

Lawrence should be a huge star, he has such great ideas. Trouble is, he has them at the wrong time

Think of the great pop Svengalis of our time, the men whose grasp on the zeitgeist and how to abuse it was as tight and unrelenting as a boa-constrictor's: Brian Epstein, Andrew Loog Oldham, that bloke who managed Led Zeppelin, Malcolm McLaren ... and Lawrence. A man so cool he dispensed with the unnecessary bother of a surname. A man who would have his band broadcast "weird, synth cover-versions" of the themes from *Dad's Army* and

previous band, were critically adored, but always doomed to be one of pop's brilliant secrets. So he put together Denim — all glitter, Band drums, Pulp synths and wryly hilarious lyrics. Their debut album, *Back in Denim*, is one of the great lost albums, and was the forerunner to Oasis's big Seventies rock sound by a good two years. The title track is still the greatest cover version Jon Bon Jovi never tackled.

But the public stayed absolutely at home. Sales were exceedingly tiny, and Denim were dropped from their record label. Lawrence signed on the dot, and immediately began work on his second album, *Denim On Ice*.

"It was hell," Lawrence says, voice flat as Jodie Kidd's chest. "Ut-

ter torture and agony. It was like *Apocalypse Now* in Walthamstow — people going insane, constantly running out of money."

"When I wrote the song *Supermodels*, the phrase had been coined two weeks before, and I was the first person to write a song about it. But, because we kept running out of money, I haven't been able to release that record until this year."

"That always seems to be my problem — I always get the timing wrong. If I could re-release *Back in Denim* now, it would be a massive album, because everyone's into the kind of stuff I was doing three years ago, stuff I was recording with people constantly saying 'No one's ever going to like this. Lawrence, the Seventies are embarrassing.'"

Lawrence gives a huge sigh. "It's boring waiting to be a star. I want to be one now."

● The single, *I Fell Off The Back Of A Lorry*, is released on Monday on Echo Records. *Back in Denim* is still available on Boy's Own Records



CAITLIN MORAN

## THE TIMES

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# Old ham lays an egg

Meat Loaf Nynex, Manchester

IT HAS been a bad year for lovers of meat. For so long a staple of the national diet, it has suddenly been found wanting. It was a bit like that second night of his world tour at the Nynex in Manchester, a new 19,500-capacity arena built and run with an attention for detail that puts the London catsheds to shame. I have always had a soft spot for Meat. After all, anyone who could launch a career based on such Wagnerian bombast and excess at a time in the 1970s when the punk revolution was in full swing must have a timeless appeal.

But much has changed in the past two years and sadly the old trouper looked and

sounded way past his sell-by date. The tone was set by an opening salvo of *When the Rubber Meets the Road* during which the performers were overshadowed by a 30ft-high inflatable rubber woman in a torn red dress. Standing to one side with a guitar strap round his neck more as a prop than for any discernible musical purpose, Meat serenaded this tawdry effigy, with typical zeal, while his five-piece band rocked out precisely and politely behind.

The regressive style of the performance was reinforced

by snippets of old movies which were interspersed between numbers on two screens behind the stage. Along with one liners from Mae West, Groucho Marx, Humphrey Bogart and a host of others, there were corny scenes of teenage angst and lust that were supposed to illustrate the songs, but merely contributed to the impression that we were witnessing an exhibition of theatrics from the Stone Age. Geysers of white smoke blasted furiously from the side of the stage during *Life is a Lemon and I Want My Money Back*, but they were as nothing compared to the clouds of hot air generated by Meat himself. Never an especially graceful performer, he clumped about the stage, effected innumerable costume changes and roared with pseudo operatic passion, but all to surprisingly little effect.

Winding on inexorably past the two-hour mark with a succession of songs that refused to lie down and die at the end, sometimes comically so, the show approached its climax with *Paradise by the Dashboard Light*. This was performed as a bizarre kitchen-sink pantomime, with backing singer Pati Russo hurling a pile of plates at the hapless Meat, presumably as a symbolic gesture on behalf of all subjugated women.

Another vast inflatable — a snarling bat creature with brightly gleaming eyes — reared its ugly head during the grand finale of *Bat Out of Hell* and Meat bid us all an emotional farewell, pausing only to berate those journalist "creeps" who "don't know me, don't know what's in my heart, and don't know who I am."

It was enough to turn anyone into a vegetarian.

DAVID SINCLAIR



Butcher's axe: Meat Loaf's brand of Wagnerian pomp and rock bombast is starting to smell a bit gamy

"Magnificent...not only historical import but great musical value" **Q**

"The journey through some of the most memorable episodes in pop history is mesmerising" **The Observer**

"Truly, madly and deeply fascinating" **Mojo**

"This is the one we've been waiting for" **Time Out**

"Anthology 2 is the most extraordinary documentary about pop ever made" **NME**

"Anthology 2 is brilliant...it's timeless stuff. In a word, genius" **Vox**

"The Beatles' work circa 1966 and 1967 remains the benchmark of all pop music and here is some of the most compelling evidence yet assembled" **Financial Times**

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# EDUCATION

## The only vote that counts

Michael Barber on the essential issues for teachers' conferences

On Easter Day the television news running order can be predicted with accuracy. Scenes of the Pope blessing the faithful in St Peter's Square will follow an item about the latest controversy at the National Union of Teachers' conference. For a brief week the teaching profession and its concerns dominate the headlines.

As the teacher union conferences follow each other in rapid succession, the public is guaranteed to hear a great deal about teachers' workload, pupils' behaviour, underfunding of the education service and levels of pay. These matters certainly deserve their slot on the public agenda.

The problem is that the conference debates are likely to highlight the short-term impact of these pressures to the exclusion of longer-term considerations about the role of teachers in society. Yet the overriding issue for all of us is surely quality. Schools have been improving, but standards here are far short of those in competitor countries.

The Dearing report, published last week, has a chilling sentence. After setting out this country's national targets for education and training, it states simply that Germany and Japan have already exceeded them. In other words, even if we achieve them by the year 2000, which most educators consider excessively optimistic, we may have fallen even further behind.

This explains why politicians in every party are giving education such priority. For the teacher unions this ought to provide a unique opportunity. It should enable them to unlock the increased levels of expenditure which primary education in particular needs.



Voting at an NUT conference — but conference debates are likely to highlight short-term pressures to the exclusion of longer-term worries

It should also be possible to transform the status of the teaching profession in society so that, instead of being the Cinderella of professions, it is seen as the key to the country's future. There should be prominent debates at the union conferences about how to exploit these exciting challenges.

The reason there won't be is that so far the teacher unions have, at best, trembled on the brink of the quality debate and, at worst, retreated into defensive shells. They have reacted with horror to the Chief Inspector's suggestion that there might be 15,000 failing teachers. Nor have they shown any enthusiasm for either the Government's or the

Opposition's plans for dealing with failing schools.

Surely it is time to recognise that defending the right of incompetent teachers to continue teaching, or of failing schools to carry on failing, not only betrays young people, but also undermines any hope of significantly improving the status of teachers. That can only come from uniting teachers, government, parents and employers around a drive for continuous improvement.

And, perhaps in whispers, it should be pointed out that the mass of hard-working, successful teachers would welcome the removal from the profession of the small percentage of their colleagues

who are not up to the job and who add to their burden. Indeed, the teaching force as a whole could only improve its reputation by putting forward proposals for policing professional standards itself.

This raises a much wider issue, which though vital to teachers, is unlikely to get much of an airing over the Easter weekend: there is a need for a reconstruction of the teaching profession itself.

Teachers' leaders need to put a clear case for the creation of a General Teaching Council which would speak with one voice for teachers on issues such as standards and teacher training. Otherwise serious, strategic thought about the

role of the teaching profession in society will either be undertaken by others outside the teaching profession or it will not happen at all.

Perhaps most important of all is the need to rethink the way teachers teach. To put it another way, we need a new theory of learning. Eighty per cent of all we know about the brain and how people learn has been discovered in the past 25 years. To that startling fact, add the immense potential of information technology, and the ingredients are in place for a learning revolution.

Yet because of the way schools are organised and the Government has funded teachers' professional develop-

ment, few members of the profession have been able to exploit the opportunities. There should be impassioned speeches from the rostrums this week about at last putting teachers' teaching skills at the heart of educational change instead of their being an afterthought.

The Government's newest educational quango is helpfully beginning to turn its attention to these thorny questions, but the answers are surely to be found in the corners of the universe into which the leaders of the profession should boldly lead.

Michael Barber is a professor at the Institute of Education, London University.

## Oxford is a special case

Robert Stevens says excellence is about far more than research

While I have spent my adult life spoilt as a professor in America, my benchmark has always been Oxford, my alma mater. Now, at the end of my career, I am no doubt too sentimental about the past and too concerned about the future, but I worry about the North Commission report on governance.

When the report deals with direct issues of governance, there is much that seems sane and sensible. Its tone, however, is most important. The report has a breathless hint of American enthusiasm based on the assumption that all change is good, and that change ought to be much easier. Part of the reason that Oxford has maintained high academic standards is that academic change has been difficult and that change and progress have been distinguished. Oxford has thus been spared much of the academic trivia and curriculum faddishness which pass for progress in America.

Since the report is looking at the university rather than colleges, it is probably inevitable that it focuses almost overwhelmingly on research, where it finds Oxford to be a "world-class university". It is never easy to assess the quality of research, but there are certain indicia that may be used. The report admits that there are no Nobel Prize winners currently at Oxford; the University of California currently has 18 on the faculty. Oxford has never claimed its greatest strength lies in the natural sciences, where Nobels are concentrated; but where is there the kind of strength which has brought nine Nobel Prizes in Economics to the University of Chicago in the last two decades?

Among "world-class" research universities Oxford is probably in the second division. Wealth does not ensure distinguished research; without it, however, excellence is likely to be elusive. Even aggregating Oxford's college and university endowments, they are only one fifth of Harvard's. Seventeen American research universities have larger endowments than Oxford. Moreover, while American universities have kept their wealth in flexible forms and use it primarily to create academic excellence, Oxford has its wealth tied up in farms,

paintings, and other admirable — but not necessarily income-producing — investments. And the income for the endowment that is available is used significantly to subsidise housing for students and fringe benefits for Fellows, who are, indeed, overworked and underpaid.

Once Oxford could look for relatively generous government support for teaching and research, but the rapid rise in the number of universities and the so-called "research drift", have left it hustling for research funds. Successful British governments have been unable to distinguish between excellence and elitism. Now the college fee must succumb to political pressure and with it the tutorial system



Undergraduates: well taught

in all but the richest colleges.

What brings Asian and American students for the most part is the fact that Oxford is one of the few research universities which take undergraduate teaching seriously. One's colleagues forget that Oxford's reputation in Britain has been made not by the number of DPhil's in Shell's labs, but by the fact that Oxford and Cambridge have a central role in the life of the nation — as undergraduate teaching institutions.

There was a time when the universities, like the judiciary, the Civil Service, the Church, even the press, provided some of the checks and balances which ensure the humane operation of any developed society. These institutions have all suffered under what Simon Jenkins has called the nationalisation of Britain. The report will confirm that Oxford is anxious to become a cog in the government machine.

Dr Stevens is Master of Pembroke College, Oxford.

STRIKING teachers and pressure from the main head teachers' union have forced François Bayrou, the French Education Minister, to take action to combat violence in schools. *Mary Follain writes.*

The 19 measures he announced, which have been criticised for not being tough enough, range from fines for intruders and an increase in the numbers of servicemen and non-teaching staff in schools, to a recommendation for closer co-operation

between heads, the police and the courts. M Bayrou also said that ten separate institutions are to be created for persistent offenders, but could give no details.

Pressure has been growing on the French Government for six months as a spate of well-publicised incidents in schools has fuelled public anxiety.

In 1993, a deranged gunman held infants hostage in their nursery school in Neuilly, a suburb of Paris, and threatened to blow himself up with the children. A police commando unit stormed into the classroom and shot him dead.

For several years, official reports have drawn attention to problems of all kinds in

schools, including drug-dealing, racketeering and increasing violence.

Replies to a recent survey carried out by the headteachers' union, SNPDEN, indicate that two out of three heads think violence is worsening every year and that nearly half of all state secondary schools experience some form of violence.

Almost all heads of schools situated in town centres feel themselves threatened. Marcel Peytavi, the general secretary of SNPDEN, said last week that the perception of violence varies according to the type of school: "Those in the centre of town see it as coming from outside the school gates in the form of drug-dealing, racketeering,

petty theft and, occasionally, by armed aggressors. But parental aggression against the school, and sometimes against the head, is becoming more common."

Asked in the survey what should be done, teachers' answers varied. Rural schools asked for more non-teaching staff to keep discipline; those in town centres wanted police guards, while colleagues in the suburbs wanted education psychiatrists and social workers.

## France acts on school violence

Susan Elkin wants to put Christianity back into Easter

## Why we should teach the Crucifixion story

How many children know that Good Friday stands for, why it is so called and why it matters? Christmas has the "advantage" of being a potentially pretty story which provides an excuse for a sentimental wallow. There's nothing nice about events on Good Friday. Consequently, although many children are daily accustomed to enjoying graphic and hideous violence on their television screens and via computer games, schools seem to shy away from the Crucifixion story.

Instead, teachers have followed the rest of our shallow, secularised society in looking anywhere other than to the Church and the Bible for a tritely romantic version of Easter. For most children it is just a spring festival and holiday. School halls are decorated with pagan fertility symbols — although few people acknowledge them as such. Chicks, rabbits and eggs abound. There is hardly a cross in sight.

For many children Good — it used to mean "holy" in this context — Friday is a day for eating hot-cross buns and bargaining round car boot sales or shopping centres. Most children's concept of Easter Day seems to be seeing how many chocolate eggs can be gobbled in the shortest possible time. In other words, the emphasis is entirely materialist and commercial and schools don't seem to be doing much to counteract the trend.

Culturally, Britain is a Christian country and has been for 14 centuries. Our way of life, law and attitudes are

firmly rooted in it. Irrespective of what an individual may or may not believe doctrinally, this country is not Muslim, Buddhist or Hindu. It is the *modus vivendi* of Christianity which underpins European thought.

That is why it is scandalous that children are passing through our schools without being taught in depth and in detail the incidents and the thinking that gave rise to

The conflict between good and evil and the need to come to terms with the mysteries of life and death are central to all spiritual thinking.

The need to teach schoolchildren the difference between right and wrong is important. What better peg than the Good Friday story — and the events which followed "on the third day" — for exploring morality?

Children should know all the Gospel versions of the main stories, learning that the details differ according to which Gospel you are reading and why it is a wonderful opportunity to keep alive the glorious King James Bible, too. In its powerful poetic simplicity it is probably the most important work of literature to be written in English. For centuries much of our high art and music has drawn its inspiration from Christian mythology. How can a child appreciate Michelangelo's *Pieta*, or the almost unbearably moving *He was Despised* from Handel's *Messiah* if he or she does not know what happened on Good Friday?

Wishy-washy, politically correct teachers and syllabus compilers have no right to deny young people informed access to some of the greatest of all works of art.

Christianity is more than just a religion. In Britain it is the main cultural force which has made us what we are today. It is time schools recognised that it is far too big and important to be reduced to a furry toy or a bit of chocolate confectionery.

'Easter is too important to be reduced to a furry toy or chocolate'

Christianity. And that doesn't mean just the pretty or easy bits.

Of course it is appropriate that in a multi-faith school non-Christian major festivals should be celebrated as well. Nevertheless, it is Christianity which should have primacy because of where we are. Young people — of all backgrounds — should be taught how Christianity came to their country. They should know about the building of the great Gothic cathedrals and be taken to visit one. What better time than Easter for this?

The national curriculum decrees that the spiritual entitlement of every child should be met. You cannot do that properly without providing information, teaching and ideas.

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ALDERLEY - 7PM	GLoucester - 6.30PM	GLoucester - 6.30PM	MANCHESTER - 6.30PM	MANCHESTER - 6.30PM	STOCKPORT - 6.30PM
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ALDERLEY - 7PM	GLoucester - 7PM	GLoucester - 7PM	MANCHESTER - 7PM	MANCHESTER - 7PM	STOCKPORT - 7PM

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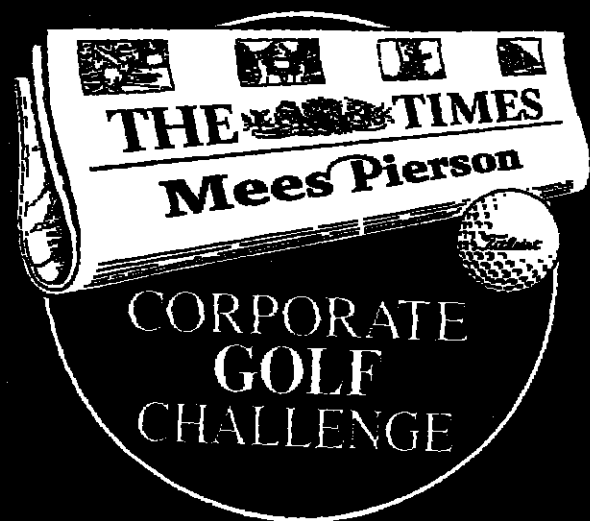
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# Clubs seek vibrant competition

## RFU handicapped by its clumsy use of trump card

TIME is fast running out for the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and its leading clubs. By the conclusion of the Easter holiday, there will be only four weeks before the moratorium on professionalism in England ends and open rugby embraced, either as one united body or apart.

Sadly, the political manoeuvring between the two sides gives little indication of a spirit of co-operation or compromise. Both profess to seek a way forward together but without acknowledging the degree to which the parameters of the sport have changed: two official meetings between union and clubs have lapsed into a long-range exchange of acrimonious views. "Disappointment is rapidly turning into anger with a leadership whose mandate is only to say no," one club official said.

Can rugby possibly throw away the advantage of learning from the mistakes of other professional sports? You would not be against it, even though the southern hemisphere already provides an example of successful short-term management, in the shape of a Super 12 competition played to a high standard and attracting large crowds.



**David Hands warns that all sides should concentrate on forging a successful way ahead**

The danger in England is that the governing body may over-estimate its own powers: though the leading clubs are not ready to say so publicly, they have contingency plans to go their preferred way if negotiations break down, which would compel the RFU either to expel them or to accept a *fait accompli* that might weaken an authority already damaged by the handling of its two special general meetings this year.

Neither scenario would be good for the sport. The union's trump card at the moment is the five nations' championship and its appeal for players, public, sponsorship and television, but its playing of that card has been clumsy and fails to acknowledge the long-term picture painted by the clubs — of a European and domestic game raised to a vibrant level, attractive to television and to which international rugby would be a valuable adjunct.

I think common sense will prevail," Sir John Hall, the

chairman of Newcastle United Sports Clubs, said yesterday. "If everyone cares for rugby as they say they do, both sides will negotiate a deal." Sir John was in London yesterday to meet other officers of the English Professional Rugby Clubs Ltd (EPRCL), the newly-formed body that the RFU has been loath to recognise.

His input, based on years of experience in football, has been invaluable for the leading clubs. "The issue for the RFU is not money but control," Tony Hallett, the union's secretary, said this week.

Sir John cheerfully recognises this: "It comes down to the sharing of power," he said. "The rest of the detail can be sorted out but it's very difficult to get the old order into the 21st century." The clubs seek what they describe as "delegated autonomy" — the kind of independence enjoyed by the southern-hemisphere provincial teams — and the opportunity to develop as centres of excellence.

Their stance can be readily understood and has attracted, they claim, sympathy among members of the RFU executive committee. They seek an integrated programme of European, Anglo-Welsh and domestic rugby that guarantees 15 home games and direct access to income from television with which to defray anticipated wage bills between £750,000 and £1.5 million.

So long as the clubs remain together, and draw their players with them, they, too, have a trump card. Their belief is that the RFU, with a debt to service on the refurbished Twickenham, cannot afford a wage bill of £6-7 million for the best 100 players in the country and clearly cannot guarantee international rugby and all the commercial benefits that go with it to more than 50 players.

The clubs believe that, far from television companies dealing only with the national unions — as has been claimed — television and backers will be readily available to the side who can guarantee the product. We used to call them players, who may feel that their long-term interests are best served within the club framework.



Darren Hall is Britain's No 1 badminton player but lacks the charisma and style of other sports champions. Photograph: Alban Donohue

## Badminton gets bird for goose abuse

There is a Sports Village on the outskirts of the city of Norwich, Asda be praised. Norwich was a Sainsbury conurbation, Sainsbury bankrolled the University of East Anglia, and the provision of the sports facility was the price Asda was asked to pay to be allowed to come east and peddle their alien corn in competition.

The Sports Village has a large hotel for athletes and officials, an Olympic-size pool, water chutes, gymnasia and all the requisite facilities in the way of tennis and squash and basketball courts needed by a quality complex.

For the last four years, Norwich has hosted the English national badminton championships. As a ball man, I have always felt that there was something not quite wholesome about badminton: give me football, cricket, hockey, baseball, basketball, tennis, squash, fives, rackets, bowls, golf, snooker, lacrosse even marbles and I know what I am about. With a shuttlecock I worry about the geese, whose tail feathers are the integral part of the conical, round-nosed object of play in this game. Badminton also misses out on support: the crowds who attend are not so much fans of the game as relatives of the players. I have

encountered more animus in public libraries.

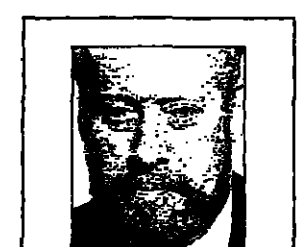
Badminton became an Olympic sport in 1992 and we have no more chance of a medal than we do in women's beach volleyball — which is being introduced in Atlanta.

Indonesia, China and Scandinavia bistrise the world rankings like Colossi: we have Darren Hall. He has been our No 1 for eight years, is nearing his sell-by date, may have passed it. Peter Knowles could take his place, but, in overall assessment, it still makes him not much more than the largest dwarf.

On Tuesday, for a place in the quarter-finals of the men's singles, a man called Bish was beaten by a man called Bush. On Wednesday, I watched Knowles beat Knock and then had a chat with Hall.

Britain's numero uno has about him not a semblance of the charisma that surrounds Giggles or Cork, Richards, Montgomerie, Hendry or Rusedski. Hall was born in Chingford, lives in Chingford, learnt his badminton from Ray Stevens in Chingford.

I went back to thinking about geese and their feathers: the Sports Council of Great Britain puts the number of UK badminton players at 5.1 million. Suppose each uses two shuttlecocks a week (in match



**FREUD ON FRIDAY**

play, it is more like five per game) and you have accounted for 500 million shuttles. Each is fashioned of 16 similarly-sized wing feathers of geese, making eight billion feathers... say ten billion, for these are hand-stitched and allowances must be made for wastage even in respect of oriental hand stitches.

The English National's winner receives £425. Hall explains that, with travel, hotel and food costs, you have to win to make a small profit; second prize, you barely break even.

Darren Hall explains that, for him, badminton provides "an OK living: pays the mortgage but I won't be able to retire on it". The trouble is the game can only improve if it finds a big sponsor or takes off on television. Meanwhile, he believes he has three or four

more years of the game before him, spends several hours a day training with light weights, practising strokes, avoiding movements unrelated to badminton.

There is about Mr Hall a constant niceness, devoid of the passion you encounter in Alex Higgins, Eric Cantona, Ian Botham, John McEnroe — but then they did not play before crowds who were dead ringers for the folk you meet in public libraries.

Hall thinks Britain is about the tenth-best badminton nation in the world, seventh-best in Europe. We represent around two per cent of the world's players, which means a thousand billion tail feathers per animal to keep the game going. Yonex, who make shuttlecocks, have a man at the tournament, and I approach him: "How many geese would be having a happy time out there were it not for the English badminton championships?"

He says geese feathers are a by-product. I wait for him to elucidate. That is it.

Hall plays Anthony Bush (W) — I thought it was Willesden or West Indies but turned out to be Wiltshire — in the semi-final. It is a game about which one would not want to expend much verbiage: 40 minutes of unforced

errors, the odd shot of quality, but it looked like a knock-up.

Champions of other sports manifest skill and speed and strength which makes journeyman practitioners glow in admiration, watching Hall, you admit that his reactions are a bit faster, he hits the shuttle harder, is better balanced and has some cunning stroke-play, but you would not say, as you do when champions of other sports display their artistry: "I could never do that."

So I returned to thinking about goose feathers. Those used for shuttlecocks are bigger than the ones in eiderdowns — I mean, you would not have to be a princess to notice there is a shuttlecock in your duvet — but, if they are a by-product, can it really be that the Chinese, who number one billion, most of those I've met are vegetarians, can eat sufficient geese to make a zillion tail feathers a by-product... or is the plumage plucked at regular intervals the way women pluck their eyebrows, so that the game and the geese can go on?

If I had to have a bet I would put it on Knowles to win the final, which is being played after I write but before you read this treatise on goose-lib.

## Stimpson joins the Newcastle band

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE first wave of signings by Rob Andrew's Newcastle ended in mid-season: the second is now beginning with the announcement yesterday that Tim Stimpson, the England A full back, will join the second division club next season. More can be expected before April is out.

Stimpson, 22, took over the captaincy of West Hartlepool during their lurch through this winless league season and, if relegation from the first division of the Courage Clubs Championship is suspended this season, will be stepping down a level. However, he clearly believes that joining Newcastle's multicultural band will not hinder his international prospects and that his new club will dominate the second division next year as Northampton have done this season.

The full back, who will miss West's game with Orrell tomorrow because of a rib injury, will be able to keep his

present job as a personnel officer with ICI at nearby Wilton. "We want all our players to have another career but secondary to rugby," Andrew said.

Stimpson has maintained his form remarkably well during West's trials and tribulations and his calm authority has taken him to the verge of full-international honours. At 6ft 3in and 15st 7lb, he is a considerable physical presence, yet with the pace that made him a member of the England sevens squad in Hong Kong last weekend.

The decision over the size of the first division next season has brought a stinging rebuke from the Orrell coach, Phil Moss. "We don't know if anybody will be going down, or whether there will be an Anglo-Welsh league next season," Moss said. "Here we are, only four weeks away from the end of the season, and, surely, everything ought to have been sorted out."

### SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	Last snow
ANDORRA					
Soldeu	60 190	good	varied	good	sun 0 3/4
					(Another dusting of new snow; good spring skiing)
AUSTRIA					
St Anton	55 255	good	varied	art cloud	2 3/4
					(Good skiing on all pistes but mixed visibility)
FRANCE					
Alpe d'Huez	70 300	good	varied	good	sun 1 1/4
					(Excellent skiing on all runs above 1,900 metres; Vauclery good)
Les Arcs	55 225	good	powder	good	cloud 3 4/4
					(All pistes in good shape; powder on Aguille Rouge)
Chamonix	30 250	good	varied	cloud	sun 8 2/4
					(Good cover on all slopes above 1,900 metres)
Tignes	110 190	good	powder	good	sun 4 3/4
					(Excellent skiing; perfect snow conditions everywhere)
ITALY					
Cervinia	75 310	good	heavy	fair	sun 3 3/4
					(Some ice first thing but pistes mostly good)
SWITZERLAND					
Arosa	50 50	good	varied	fair	sun 1 4/4
					(Cool temperatures and new snow; improved conditions)
C Montana	5 210	fair	crust	worm	fine 3 3/4
					(Generally very good spring skiing on firm-packed snow)
Zermatt	5 215	good	varied	worm	snow 1 4/4
					(New snow improving conditions; Trift very good)

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

### SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN  
BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

I have had several refreshers on simple elimination. This one has an extra twist.

Dealer South Love-all

♠ 6	♥ A6	♦ K9542	♣ A J852
♠ 7	♥ KQ9	♦ A J7	♣ K10764

Contract: Five Clubs by South  
Lead: ace of spades

West switches to a heart at trick two and you win the ace. Six Clubs might make on a sunny day, but you can allow for major storms in Five Clubs. How do you play the trumps?

You should address your mind to what will happen if the clubs are 3-0. By now, I hope that you recognise this as a typical elimination hand. If someone has Qxx of clubs,

you arrange to eliminate the majors before exiting with a third club. That way, the defence must open the diamonds, to their disadvantage. However, if East has to play diamonds, the defence will still take a trick in the suit if West has Q10xx. If, though, West has to play diamonds, you are home. So, you should start clubs by laying down the ace. If West shows out, you can pick up East's queen. If East shows out, you play a trump to the king, ruff a spade, and play off your remaining high hearts. Then, give West his trump trick. West will have no choice but to give a ruff and discard or open up the diamond suit. This is the distribution that you have to guard against:

West	East
♠ AK1095	♠ J8432
♥ 74	♥ J108532
♦ Q108	♦ 83
♣ Q93	♣ -

For details of The Times Midland Private Banking National Bridge challenge, contact the event organisers on 0181-942 9506 or write to: Britannic Building, Beverley Way, New Malden, Surrey.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

### KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Adams top

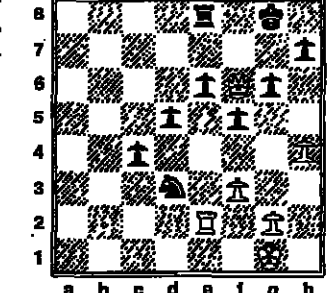
MICKEY ADAMS, the grandmaster and No 2 United Kingdom player behind Nigel Short, has achieved one of his best results by clinching first prize in the New York International. Adams finished well ahead of grandmasters such as Ivan Sokolov, Viktor Korchnoi and Valery Salov. In the game today he outplays grandmaster Patrick Wolff, the United States champion. Adams's quiet opening encourages Black to engage in an early battle on the queen's flank which soon turns against him. Wolff then tries to solve his problems with a tactical sequence but overlooks Adams's thirtieth move, which enabled him to retain a large material advantage.

White: Michael Adams  
Black: Patrick Wolff  
New York, March 1996

Sicilian defence  
1 e4 c5  
2 Nf3 d6  
3 c3 Nf6  
4 Be2 g6  
5 O-O Nbd7  
6 d3 b6  
7 Nbd2 Bb7  
8 Re1 Bg7  
9 Bf1 O-O  
10 d4 e6  
11 b3 Qc7

12 Bb2	Rad8
13 a4	a6
14 b4	d5
15 a5	Ne4
16 a6	Bh6
17 Nb3	c-b4
18 cxb4	Rf8
19 Bc1	Bf6
20 a6	Q-b6
21 Nc5	Qb6
22 Ba3	Qb6
23 Rb1	Bc5
24 Rxb6	Bc6
25 h4	Bc6
26 Qc1	Bb5
27 Qh6	Na5
28 Nb5	Bc4
29 Bb5	a5
30 Qd2	h5
31 Re2	Ra8
32 Bc2	Ra4
33 Bc4	Rc4
34 Qc1	Rc4
35 Nb4	bxa4
36 f3	Nc5
37 Qc3	Nc5
38 Qf6	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

### WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

JENNETTING  
a. Covering for a donkey  
b. Collecting blueberries  
c. An early apple

JIZZ  
a. Modified rapture  
b. A distinguishing feature  
c. A farrier's wrench

JYNX  
a. A wryneck  
b. A cabballistic sign  
c. An old pub game

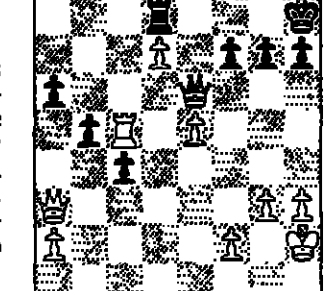
HODDYDODDY  
a. A duped husband  
b. Supercilious  
c. Warm ale and honey

Answers on page 41

### WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Alekhine — Nestor, Trinidad, 1939. The two danger signals here for Black are the weak back rank and powerful white passed pawn on d7. How did Alekhine exploit these factors to deliver a fine finish?



Solution on page 41

## Save £35 on tickets to see the Broncos

THE London Super League rugby season has kicked off with a tremendous series of matches and The Times is offering readers the chance to buy a season ticket for the London Broncos' home games for £75, saving £35 off the normal season ticket price of £110.

Their next home game is against Workington on Sunday, April 21 at Charlton Athletic football club's ground, The Valley, in southeast London. The Valley is easy to get to by public transport and there is plenty of parking nearby.

Super League rugby is a fast, exciting sport that all the family can enjoy. There is plenty of entertainment before the kick-off and at half-time with live bands, top singers, funky dancing and fireworks.

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# Newcastle must compromise manager's ideals

## Stumble tests Keegan's defence mechanism

BY DAVID MILLER

FAILURE to win the FA Carling Premiership would probably bring Kevin Keegan a sharper sense of loss even than being sacked after taking a nap in his car five years ago. His emotional commitment to Newcastle United, as in most things he has done, is total.

After all that his effervescent team have given to Tyneside's passionate supporters and to the whole English game this season, it will be mortifying should they stumble in the final straight. When the team were promoted by winning the first division three years ago, it seemed that Newcastle at last were to become a leading force, with real achievements, after all the years of frustrating promise from players such as "Jinky" Smith, Macdonald and Waddle.

Yet how right is Keegan, following in the same steps as Ron Greenwood for all those years at West Ham United, to say categorically "win or lose, this is the way to play", as the points continue to be dropped? Is he leading another Light Brigade?

Those hard men of the Sixties, Bill Shankly — who signed Keegan from Scun-

thorpe United for £35,000 in 1971 — and Harry Catterick and Don Revie, used to refer dismissively to West Ham and Tottenham Hotspur, when the London clubs failed to win the league titles their skills deserved, as southern softies. What would Shankly now call Newcastle?

Keegan has great pride and determination, his identification with Newcastle's cause being as powerful as it was with Liverpool's. I know how he cares, having given him a lift from Heathrow to King's Cross when he was barely more than a boy to travel home to his parents just after being sent off for retaliation on an England Under-23 tour. The indignity hurt.

He tried to hide the pain on Wednesday night, after Stan Collymore had just secured victory in a seven-goal epic at Anfield, saying: "I'm a great winner and I try to be a good loser."

What must he do to prevent Newcastle from unnecessarily surrendering further points in their remaining matches against teams, all of whom are inferior to Newcastle as an attacking unit?

It is not just a matter of work-rate. Few former players know more about that than

### LEADERS

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	32	20	7	5	59	30	67
Newcastle	31	20	4	7	58	32	64
Liverpool	32	18	8	6	64	30	62

**MANCHESTER UNITED:** Tomorrow: Manchester City (a), Apr 6; Coventry City (h), Apr 13; Southampton (a), Apr 17; Leeds United (h), Apr 27; Nottingham Forest (h), May 5; Middlesbrough (a).  
**NEWCASTLE UNITED:** Tomorrow: Queens Park Rangers (h), Apr 6; Blackburn Rovers (a), Apr 14; Aston Villa (h), Apr 17; Southampton (h), Apr 27; Leeds United (a), May 2; Nottingham Forest (a), May 5; Tottenham Hotspur (h), Apr 18; West Ham United (h), Apr 18; Everton (a), Apr 27; Middlesbrough (h), May 1; Arsenal (a), May 5; Manchester City (a).

Keegan and his assistant, Terry McDermott. I am not the one to try to tell them about common sense, on the field, given their massive experience, yet that, I suspect, is the key. When Newcastle went ahead again 3-2 on Wednesday night, with Asprilla's goal just on the hour, that surely was the moment for Newcastle to temper extravagance with caution.

Instead, they allowed their opponents more of the ball in the last half-hour than a side such as Arsenal sometimes give in a whole match. Beardsley, Ginola and even the iron-

cast Baty were more overrun than had been Liverpool at the height of Newcastle's own assault in the first half. Newcastle played like Brazil of the Eighties: preoccupied with the positive when an element of compromise might have brought a victory that was paramount on this occasion, a draw at the very least.

It is fair to say that McManaman produced a late flourish that might have unhinged any opposition as he ran full tilt past Newcastle's left flank of Baty, Ginola and Beardsley, the latter fortunate not to concede a penalty when up-ending McManaman on the byline.

Keegan will ignore the words of Roy Evans, his opposite number, at his peril. Defence is part of the game and although Liverpool defended at times even more shakily than Newcastle, they had twice the number of shots on target. Newcastle's goal aggregate for the season reveals something of a myth about their style: they have scored fewer and conceded more than their two rivals.

Even in the moments of their worst anxieties, with their supporters reduced to a state of near-apoplexy, Liverpool were still concentrating on the possession game with which Keegan is so familiar. Newcastle's rate of unforgotten error in their passing was the higher.

Brian Clough, whose Nottingham Forest teams used to win trophies with less than the talent that Keegan has assembled, always preached that clean sheets won titles. Clough was the pragmatist *par excellence*. If Keegan were to compare what he gets in total from Ginola with what Clough had from John Robertson, it might partially explain Newcastle's problem.

The race is not yet over. The title is regularly determined over Easter. Manchester United have at least as tough a programme. A five per cent compromise in attitude might yet be sufficient to gain Newcastle their first championship for 69 years, a feat that would be welcomed by everyone outside Lancashire.

What is certain, I believe, is that without more consideration for defence, Newcastle are unlikely to make serious impact in the European field, never mind the brilliance of Ferdinand and Asprilla.

□ Newcastle's Premiership prospects will be further hampered by the loss of Steve Howey, the England defender, who went off with a hamstring injury at Anfield; he may not play again this season, thus damaging his chances of playing a part in the European championship finals.



Johnson, right, awaits his chance during a second-round defeat of Hands yesterday

## Johnson learns his lines

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN

PAUL JOHNSON'S elevation to the cast list for the later stages of the British Open squash championships was confirmed yesterday when his name was included in the line-up for the quarter-finals at the Cardiff International Arena today.

After his unexpected removal of Peter Nicol, the British national champion, who was seeded No. 4, Johnson, from Kent, yesterday defeated Tony Hands 15-17, 15-12, 15-13 in the second round. He now meets the French champion, Julien Bonet.

Bonet, the world No. 18, flourishes in the British Open. Last year, he surprised Nicol in the first round. Yesterday, he sprang a trap of Gallic cheek and enterprise to ensnare the sixth-seeded English captain, Chris Walker, 15-13, 15-9, 12-15, 15-8.

Jansher Khan, seeking to win the title for a fifth successive time, will meet

domestic opposition of some sort today. Paul Gregory, a former British national champion, who now plays as the Greece No. 1 because of his father's antecedence, was due late last night to face the Wales No. 2, Alex Gough.

The victory by Johnson, ranked No. 27 in the world, came after a display of patient rallying and may yet be seen as the defining moment in which a player who developed late to take the British and European junior titles in his eighteenth year broke into the senior elite at 23.

Hands is a wonderfully talented ball-player who can match any attacker in the land on the practice court, but whose mind drops into rigid defensive mode under tournament conditions.

Johnson, in contrast, overcame a nervous start on the Perspex show court he had experienced only once before to develop a high-paced

assault to which Hands could find little response.

"I had great trouble hitting the length on this court at first, but once I worked it out, I found the same rhythm and balance that took me past Nicol," Johnson said.

Both he and Hands might have been helped by staying around to watch Cassandra Jackman, England's top-ranked woman, strike a resounding length from the first rally of her 40-minute, 9-1, 9-5, 9-6 win against Vicki Cardwell, the fast and vastly experienced 40-year-old who dominated the British Open in the early 1980s.

An English semi-finalist was guaranteed by Jackman's powerful performance. In the quarter-finals today, she meets the former national champion, Fiona Geaves, from Gloucester, who yesterday dismissed Rebecca Macree, of Essex, 9-5, 9-0, 9-0 in only 22 minutes.

## Juninho is back on board for voyage towards calmer waters

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

MIDDLESBROUGH will welcome Juninho back into their team tonight as they attempt to secure their FA Carling Premiership status. The Brazilian international will start only his second home match in almost two months against Sheffield Wednesday.

A draw will take Middlesbrough to 40 points and virtually ensure their survival after a new year slump that saw them take just one point from 11 games before Saturday's win at Leeds United.

Branco, Juninho's countryman, is struggling with an injury and Middlesbrough are playing down reports that they are to sign a third Brazilian, Beto, the Botalogo forward, played alongside Juninho in a recent Olympic Games qualifying tournament and Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, was said to be in the advanced stages of talks with him.

However, John Pickering, the coach, said: "Beto has been mentioned in general conversation, but not as an immediate target. I'm not saying he will not come, but I'd be surprised if he did."



Juninho returning

£25,000 if Brown, the leading scorer in United's B team, makes five first-team appearances, followed by £100,000 after 25 appearances and similar payments after 50 and 75 appearances. The commission also decided that United would have to pay another £25,000 if Brown is capped at England Under-21 level and £100,000 if he plays full international.

Aston Villa are to offer a new contract to Paul McGrath, the Ireland central defender. McGrath, whose present contract expires this summer, has been with the club seven years and will be entitled to a free transfer.

Brian Little, the manager, said: "Paul has earned the right to do what he wants to, but he knows and I know that there will be an offer. He has been a terrific servant to this club and still has a great deal to offer."

Dave Bassett was yesterday rewarded for steering Crystal Palace into the promotion reckoning when he was named Endsleigh Insurance League first division manager of the month for March.

## 4 months' free RHS trial membership

Become a member of the Royal Horticultural Society for the months of May, June, July and August — free. Our trial membership offer gives you access to 18 of Britain's most beautiful gardens including Wisley at Woking, Surrey, Rosemoor in Devon and Hyde Hall in Essex.

Among the benefits is a free monthly copy of *The Garden* worth £2.50; access to more than 250 RHS lectures and demonstrations; and the chance to buy tickets for members-only days at the Chelsea Flower Show.

### Gardening video offer

Times readers can choose to receive one of three RHS gardening videos (worth £14.99 each) by collecting four tokens and sending only £1.98 to cover the cost of postage and handling. The videos are *Container Growing*, *Vegetable Growing* and *Wisley Through the Seasons*. As well as these bargain videos, you can save £2 off a range of other RHS videos. Details of how to apply for your videos will appear in Weekend tomorrow.

#### HOW TO APPLY

To qualify for your four months' free membership, collect four of the tokens which have appeared in *The Times* this week, attach them to the direct debit form (right) and send them to: The RHS, PO Box 313, London SW1P 2PE. If, at the end of the four months, you decide to join the RHS for a further 12 months, there is nothing for you to do. They will apply to your bank for your subscription of £29 (normally £31 but members paying by direct debit are offered a £2 reduction). If you decide you do not want to continue membership of the RHS, all you need do is write to your bank cancelling the mandate. Applications must be received by April 30, 1996 and the four months free membership will then expire on August 31, 1996.

**THE TIMES**  
GARDEN VIDEO  
TOKEN 5

**THE TIMES**  
MEMBERSHIP  
TOKEN 6

### APPLICATION FOR THIS MEMBERSHIP

I would like four months' free trial membership. If I decide to join the RHS for a further 12 months, £29 will be deducted directly from my bank account at the end of August. I can cancel the mandate at any time by writing to my bank.

Surname \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_ Initials \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime tel. no. \_\_\_\_\_

Please also send me the following Chelsea Flower Show tickets (maximum two tickets per member). I understand that the cost of the tickets will be debited from my account immediately and the tickets will be sent to me under separate cover from my membership pack. Subject to availability.

City	Date	Time	Price	Total
Tuesday May 21	after 3.30pm	£9 each		
Wednesday May 22	8am-8pm	£16 each		
Wednesday May 22	after 3.30pm	£9 each		

(Please note that you can only pay by direct debit if you have a UK bank account. Photocopied forms will not be accepted.)

I authorise you until further notice in writing to pay the Royal Horticultural Society direct debits from the account detailed on this form. I understand that the Royal Horticultural Society may change the amounts and dates only after giving me prior notice.

For official use only — RHS membership number

Originator's code: 998979

Name and address of your bank \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Bank account in the name of \_\_\_\_\_

Bank account number \_\_\_\_\_

Bank sort code \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: The Royal Horticultural Society, PO Box 313, London SW1P 2PE.

<b>ATHLETICS</b>  PETERSBURG, South Africa (selected results) Men: 200m: 1. J. Regis (GB) 23.55; 110m hurdles: 1. A. Jarrish (GB) 13.58			<b>FOOTBALL</b>  Wednesday's late results EUROPEAN CUP: Semi-finals, first leg: Ajax 0 Panathinaikos 1; Juventus 2 Nantes 1 FA CUP: Premiership: Leeds United 1 Southampton 0; Liverpool 4 Arsenal 1 ENGLISH INSURANCE LEAGUE: First division Stoke City 2 Wolverhampton 1; Second division Swindon Town 3 Brighton 2 VALDHAUF CONFERENCE: Bath City 3 Exeter City 1 SPALDING CUP: Semi-finals, second leg: Macclesfield 2 Salford 1 (Macclesfield won 9-5 on aggregate); Kettering 2 Bromsgrove 1 (Bromsgrove won 3-2 on aggregate) LEAGUE OF WALES: Ton Pargell 1; Llanelli 1; Llanidloes 1; Llanfair 1; Ebbw Vale 1; Barry Town 1 AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Newton City 3 Chelsea 0; Crystal Palace 2 Portsmouth 1; Ipswich Town 2 Bristol Rovers 0; Arsenal 1 Luton Town 2; Norwich City 2 Southampton 2; Oxford United 1 Wimbledon 1; Watford 0 Queens Park Rangers 3 KENTONS LEAGUE: First division: Bolton 3 Sheffield United 0; Second division: Bradford City 0 Barnsley 1; Grimsby Town 3 Rotherham 1; Lincoln City 2; Mansfield Town 1; Huddersfield Town 2; Preston North End 1; Hull City 0; Third division: Lincoln City 0; Walsall 2; Rochdale 0; Scarborough 1; Grimsby 1; Wigan 1; Scunthorpe 1; Chesterfield 1; Walsley 1; Scunthorpe 1; Scunthorpe 1; Scunthorpe 1 BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Luton Town 2; Watford 1; Ipswich Town 2; Millwall 1; Charlton Athletic 1; Reading
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# More than we ever wanted to know about...

For reasons that escape me, I seem to have been writing about sex all week. It could, I suppose, be something in the air — spring, sun and all those metaphors that involve sap. Or it could, more probably, be something in the television schedules. Certainly last night there was no escaping it. Nothing graphic, mind you; nothing that could offend a reasonably broad-minded maiden aunt, but nevertheless, in an all-pervading sort of way.

We began in Glasgow's gay community, or at least the glossy colour-supplement version of it created by the makers of Taggart (TV). An hour later we ended with the aggressively heterosexual Mike Jardine embarking on a relationship with a young woman who was HIV positive and with Jackie Reid set to be whisked off her feet by a bisexual bar owner. Just as I was wondering what Taggart would have made of it all,

the bar owner changed his mind and whisked that nice Stuart Fraser off instead. The odds on Taggart muttering something brief and unprintable shortened.


Venturing into an area where so many mainstream drama still fears to tread (especially for three consecutive weeks) was a brave decision for the producers at STV. Cleverly, they took the precaution of making Jardine (James Macpherson) a closet homophobe — beguiling political correctness on the outside, but a mass of old-fashioned prejudice within. Few people, I suspect, will admit to identifying with Jardine's standpoint, but that doesn't matter. Its purpose was to make a "difficult" subject accessible and in this I hope it succeeded.

For while this may not have been a Taggart quite out of the top drawer, it was one of the best since STV decided to press on with the series after the death of Mark

McManus. It had its faults, but for the most part they were not serious. Occasionally Marcus D.F. White, the director, let a fondness for cinematic style over television substance run away with him, but he just about stayed the right side of pastiche. The glass eye lodged in the bars of a drain, however, was pushing it.

A more serious lapse concerned an apparent determination to include a romantic heterosexual subplot in Glenn Chandler's otherwise well-constructed script. Jardine may be insensitive, but it was simply impossible to believe that he would flirt so outrageously with a woman whose gay brother was our serial killer's second victim. In the middle of a "multiple murder" investigation, suddenly we found ourselves back in *Gregory's Girl*. If there was to be romance, I think DS Reid ought to have been

### REVIEW



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know exactly — 37 per cent, at least according to the great granddaddy of sex research, Alfred Kinsey.

Last night Kinsey's career got the very best of maulings at the hands of *Reputations* (BBC2) in a film that enjoyably failed to live up to the bold promises of its introduction. Was his data unreliable? Well maybe. Was his own sex life particularly extraordinary? Probably not. Did he have a secret moral agenda? Possibly.

If all that sounds a bit dull, the film itself was not. With so little reputation-wrecking ammunition at his disposal, Clare Beavan stuck to the life and extraordinary times of Kinsey, as told by a well-picked cast of family, colleagues and distinguished former Kinsey interviewees such as Gore Vidal and William Burroughs, two men who could probably have hit 37 per cent by themselves. Vidal recalled being thrilled by the findings: "He

had validated me and I had validated him."

The impact Kinsey's findings had on America was told through headlines and humour. I particularly liked Victor Cohn, a former science reporter for the *Minneapolis Tribune*. "Here we are with this prudish society and suddenly Kinsey tells us that more than 50 per cent of women have had premarital intercourse. Well, wow, we didn't know that." It needs to be read in a James Stewart accent — especially the wow.

With all that behind us, the standard heterosexual, intra-marital experience ought to have been straightforward. But when the aim is reproduction, it isn't always, as we learnt in *Making Babies* (BBC1), a fly-on-the-wall documentary series based in and around Professor Robert Winston's infertility clinic at Hammersmith Hospital.

The series is far from easy going, especially for feeble males such as myself who faint at the mere mention of deep muscle injections (thud)... let alone childbirth (thud). Last night's first programme took us to Ray, a slightly naive but very likeable couple, through the difficult first steps of in-vitro fertilisation. It was painful and hard work for Tania, Tanya and pretty effortless for Ray. But just as painful was the communication problem Joanna Clinton-Davis's film exposed, the problem that Winston has in communicating realistic expectations to his patients ("I trade in disappointment") and the growing communication problem between husband and wife. "I don't think they [men] have the right thing to say," sobbed Tania. To judge by the laddish banter at the garage where Ray works, she was spot-on.

● Lynne Truss is on holiday

- ### BBC1
- 7.00am News (CeeFax) (4048389)
  - 7.10am *Billie* (S) (5700389) 7.35am *Postman Pat Specials* (S) (7835143)
  - 8.00am News (CeeFax) (5050598)
  - 8.10am *Peter Pan and the Pirates* (CeeFax) (S) (7179476) 8.30am *Tennis: Mutant Hero Turtles* (CeeFax) (64834)
  - 9.00am News (CeeFax) (5220308)
  - 9.05am *Mighty Max* (S) (7389533) 9.30am *Act-A-Hut* (CeeFax) (S) (8676259) 9.55am *Christopher Crocodile* (S) (6114308) 10.00am *Playdays* (S) (61834)
  - 10.30am *Tron* (1982) with Jeff Bridges and Bruce Boxleitner. Computer games adventure, spirited but directed by Steven Lisberger. (CeeFax) (58388)
  - 12.00pm *No Story So Divine*. Examination of the story of Jesus on the road to Calvary (S) (15056)
  - 1.00pm *One O'Clock News* and weather (4205534) 1.10pm *Regional News* (18004476)
  - 1.15pm *Neighbours* (CeeFax) (S) (8822529)
  - 1.35pm *Quo Vadis?* (1951) with Robert Taylor, Deborah Kerr. Epic about the persecution of Christians in Rome under the Emperor Nero (Peter Ustinov, letting rip). Directed by Mervyn LeRoy (9371078)
  - 4.20pm *Disney Time* (CeeFax) (S) (2497143)
  - 5.05pm *Neighbours* (S) (8482834)
  - 5.25pm News (CeeFax) and weather (8482838)
  - 5.45pm *Regional News* (611308)
  - 5.50pm *Didi the Orang-utan*. The moving story of Didi, a seven-year-old orang-utan who was illegally smuggled to Taiwan to be sold as a luxury pet in the 1980s (CeeFax) (S) (171921)
  - 6.40pm *Wallace and Gromit: A Close Shave*. The latest Oscar-winning animation by Nick Park (S) (CeeFax) (S) (148384) NLI: 6.40pm *K-9* (1989) with James Belushi and Mel Harris. Tom Dooley is a crazy cop just one step away from making the biggest drug bust of his life. His problem is that only a highly trained police dog will work with him. Directed by Bud Daniel (CeeFax) (S) (7297478)
  - 8.45pm *A Question of Sport*. Bill Beaumont and Ian Botham are joined by Mick Fitzgerald, Niall Quinn, Sonia O'Sullivan and Nick Gillingham. (CeeFax) (S) (126018)
  - 9.15pm News (CeeFax) and weather (715560)
  - 9.35pm *Screen One: Eskimo Day*. With Alec Guinness and Maureen Lipman (CeeFax) (S) (3747921)
  - 11.00pm *The Road to Golgotha*. Reflection on the Crucifixion of Jesus (S) (439485)
  - 11.15pm *Last Embrace* (1979) with Roy Scheider and Janet Margolin. After his wife is murdered, a government agent suffers a nervous breakdown, loses his job and becomes paranoid about being directed the same fate as his wife. Directed by Jonathan Demme (82698)
  - 12.55am *Film: Young and Innocent* (1937, b/w) Hitchcock murder mystery with Novella Pilbeam and Derrick de Marney. A man reports that a body has been washed up on the beach and is horrified when he becomes the prime suspect (976086)
  - 2.15pm *Weather* (5082419) *Wales*: 2.10pm News headlines and weather (508148)

- ### BBC2
- 6.00am *Open University: Biology* (7978766) 6.25pm *16th-century Venice and Antwerp* (7980501) 6.50pm *Understanding Modern Societies* (806143)
  - 7.20pm *See Hear Breakfast News* (728056)
  - 7.30pm *The Roaring Twenties* (1930, b/w) with James Cagney and Humphrey Bogart. Eddie Barlett returns home after the First World War to discover his old job has been filled in his absence and embarks on a new career as a bootlegger. Directed by Raoul Walsh (2754599)
  - 9.10pm *Film: Across the Pacific* (1942, b/w) with Humphrey Bogart and Mary Astor. Rick Leland is given a fake discharge from the US Army and assigned to trail a suspected enemy agent. Directed by John Huston (6185252)
  - 10.45pm *Film: Key Largo* (1948, b/w) with Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall. A mobster takes over a hotel and its inhabitants. Directed by John Huston (CeeFax) (10334)
  - 12.25pm *Shakers — Hands to Work, Hearts to God* (2313650)
  - 1.25pm *The St. Matthew Passion*. Jonathan Miller's acclaimed version of Bach's 1727 Passion (S) (66726105)
  - 4.00pm *Today's Day* (S) (969) 4.30pm *Ready, Steady, Cook* (S) (653) 5.00pm *Easther* (S) (8037)
  - 5.30pm *The Munsters* (b/w) (S) (CeeFax) (806389)
  - 5.55pm *The Champions* (CeeFax) (78834)
  - 6.45pm *The Wartime Kitchen and Garden*. Rationing was introduced in January 1940 and quickly stimulated creative cooking (2/8) (S) (CeeFax) (664766)
  - 7.15pm *Watch Out*. Simon King presents the latest wildlife information (544582)

### CHOICE

#### The Transatlantic Sessions

*BBC2, 7.20pm*

Filmed on the west coast of Scotland, this is an easygoing series of folk music in which the singers and instrumentalists are there to enjoy themselves and not concerned about plugging their latest disc. The international flavour is provided by the fiddler hosts, Aly Bain from Shetland and the New Yorker Jay Ungar, and the artists are drawn from Scotland, North America and Ireland. With no compere to promote them or audience to applaud them, the numbers are left to speak for themselves. This, most effectively, they do. The performers are assembled in a hotel in Ayrshire but the camera moves outside for appropriate embellishment, as when a night-time seascape is used to back *Ready For The Storm*, sung by Kathy Mattea from Massachusetts and Dougie MacLean. Another country war. Ennagh Harris, performs *Wheels of Love* with Mary Black.

#### The Essential Olympics

*BBC2, 9.15pm*

Archive footage, interviews and Desmond Lynam chronicle the first 100 years of the modern Olympic Games. If British successes feature prominently, there have not been that many to celebrate. Poignant is the memory of one Bob, and part of the joke is that he is even more on edge than their offspring. The social interplay between the simple-minded Lancashire couple (Maureen Lipman and David Ross) and their well-heeled, eternally-leaving counterparts from Cheltenham (Anna Carter and Tom Wilkinson) is particularly funny and well-timed. But the real story is the one conducted by the interviews has a cussed old father (Alec Guinness) who is himself being interviewed for a sheltered home. Enjoyable though the piece is, it tends to move along the same plane and seems in danger of fizzling out. But *Rosenthal* is a very seasoned practitioner and he produces a dramatic climax at the right time.

#### Eskimo Day

*BBC1, 9.35pm*

Jack Rosenthal's comedy follows three anxious teenagers on a trip to Cambridge to be interviewed for a place at the university. The parents are too, and part of the joke is that they are even more on edge than their offspring. The social interplay between the simple-minded Lancashire couple (Maureen Lipman and David Ross) and their well-heeled, eternally-leaving counterparts from Cheltenham (Anna Carter and Tom Wilkinson) is particularly funny and well-timed. But the real story is the one conducted by the interviews has a cussed old father (Alec Guinness) who is himself being interviewed for a sheltered home. Enjoyable though the piece is, it tends to move along the same plane and seems in danger of fizzling out. But *Rosenthal* is a very seasoned practitioner and he produces a dramatic climax at the right time.

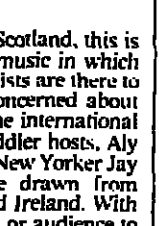
#### Rory Bremner... Who Else?

*Channel 4, 10.30pm*

Since in the interests of topicality the show is completed only hours before it reaches the screen, the contents cannot be revealed in advance. But a glance over the week's news stories should give some idea. It goes without saying that Bremner is a superb mimic, in voice as well as gesture. But impersonations for their own sake soon become tedious. Bremner has his talent further by putting it to the cause of satire which is sharp, funny and often goes deep. With the decline of *Spitting Image* the show has become the main forum for satirical public figures down to date. As before the supporting attraction is John Bird and John Fortune, whose dialogues brilliantly expose the fudges and evasions of politicians, spin-doctors and captains of industry.

Peter Waymark

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- 12.45pm *ITN News: Weather* (67474105)
  - 1.00pm *Coronation Street* (75328)
  - 2.15pm *Film: Watership Down* (1978). Animated version of the novel by Richard Adams, directed by Martin Rosen (916018)
  - 4.00-4.45pm *Film: Over the Top* (4598368)
  - 6.00pm *Westcountry Live* (872)
  - 6.30-7.00pm *Heil and High Water: The Making of Cuthbert* (124)
  - 11.00pm *ITN News: Weather* (424563)
  - 11.20pm *Film: The Boy in Blue* (608953)
- ### CENTRAL
- #### As HTV West except:
- 10.30am-12.15pm *Film: A Green Journey* (4451368)
  - 12.45pm *ITN News: Weather* (67474105)
  - 1.00pm *Highway to Heaven* (1302263)
  - 1.55pm *Caribbean Time* (4893853)
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  - 11.15pm *Film: That's Life* (617872)
  - 1.00am *Hotel Babylon* (4778709)
  - 1.40am *The Good Sex Guide... Late* (4719254)
  - 2.40am *The Chart Show* (398438)
  - 3.35am *Dear Nick* (921523)
  - 4.30am *Jobfinder* (958186)
  - 5.20am *Asian Eye* (1482254)
- ### MERIDIAN
- #### As HTV West except:
- 10.20-10.25pm *Warner Brothers Cartoon* (4237037)
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  - 11.15pm *Meridian News and Weather* (447414)
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  - 5.00pm *Freescreen* (66438)
- ### SAC
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- Starts: 6.35pm *Fifteen to One* (8945018) 7.00pm *The Big Breakfast* (91563) 9.00pm *Saved by the Bell: The College Years* (71124) 9.30pm *New Gamesmaster* (81143) 10.00pm *California Dreams* (6117495) 10.25pm *Mork and Minky* (6110352) 10.55pm *Dennis* (3427553) 11.05pm *Pink Panther* (4890998) 11.30pm *Extreme* (35940) 12.30am *A Box Full of Stories* (29259) 1.00am *St. Meir* (94650) 1.30am *That Goes Double* (8851827) 1.55pm *Film: Goodbye Mr Chips* (7250814) 4.00pm *Jimmy's* (227) 4.30pm *Waterways* (921) 5.00pm *Pump: Yr Progy* (3105) 5.30pm *Pink Panther* (4890998) 6.00pm *Meridian* (345853) 6.10pm *Gorham Yr Progy* (345853) 6.30pm *Pobol Y Cwm* (281501) 7.25pm *Jwl Jwl* (423476) 8.00pm *Del a Tom: Cyfrif Defaid* (9389) 8.30pm *Newyddion* (98853) 8.45pm *Y Pen Ar Y Bryn* (142056) 9.15pm *The Long Johns* (410178) 9.30pm *Undercover Britain: Talking to the Cleaners* (82245) 10.00pm *Brookside* (63880) 10.30pm *Rory Bremner — Who Else?* (779573) 11.10pm *Penn & Teller: Don't Try This at Home* (871872) 12.00am *T.F.I. Friday* (5010612) 1.15pm *Film: 6.5 Special* (4501508) 2.35pm *Film: House of Mystery* (4333615)

- ### SKY MOVIES GOLD
- 4.00pm *Gunfight* (1982) (2679837) 7.05pm *Butch and Sundance* (1975) (2575760) 10.00pm *Bright Lights, Big City* (1988) (467678) 11.55pm *Black & White* (1973) (240727) 1.30-3.00pm *Tristram Shandy* (1970) (150273)
- ### THE MOVIE CHANNEL
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FRIDAY APRIL 5 1996

GOLF 41

MONTGOMERIE FALLS  
SHORT IN HIS  
APPROACH PLAY

New contenders nominated

## Plot thickens in cricket's new panel game

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

AS THE great Test selection soap opera offered ever more personalities as the artificial cure for England's cricketing decline, an altogether different solution was being proposed by the game's leading administrator. All will be well, according to Alan (A.C.) Smith, so long as the players have fun.

Smith, the chief executive of the Test and County Cricket Board, was speaking at a dinner in London to mark the publication of the 133rd Wisden Almanack. Even as he rose for one of his final speeches before retirement beckons in the autumn, further nominations for the selection vacancies were arriving at his office at Lord's, guaranteeing the most unwieldy of elections and increasing the likelihood that Smith and his staff will need to conduct a second ballot to settle tied votes.

It is an intriguing prospect and a highly unusual one. In normal times, it is rare for more than three candidates to be put forward for the panel, or for the outcome of the ballot to be worth more than a

cursory mention in newspapers and a raised eyebrow in the saloon bar. These are not normal times, however. Cricketing folk are suddenly gripped with a restless remorse over the state of the national team and the nominees being checked in at Lord's yesterday are not normal contenders.

Chris Cowdrey was the third recent England captain, after Ian Botham and Graham Gooch, to be proposed, and Geoff Miller, who makes much of his living now from

after-dinner speaking, added to the thoroughly modern feel of the ever-increasing field.

There are now nine runners, quite enough to confuse the counties who must each settle upon two of them and enough to persuade one bookmaker, Sporting Index, to begin betting on the outcome. It makes Gooch and David Graveney favourites at 11-10, followed by Botham at 6-4. John Edrich and Miller are its 33-1 outsiders.

Smith is properly sceptical about the fuss. The identity of those picking the teams, even should they include the likes of Botham or Gooch, is a secondary matter, in his mind, to the state of mind of the men they choose. Here, Smith had the answer.

"The single most important remedy for any failings in our national team is a sense of enjoyment and enthusiasm," he said. "I played for 17 summers and enjoyed every minute, but the demands are different now and much of the fun has gone from the players' existence." It might have sounded simplistic, even glib, but Smith had a profound point to make and he illustrated it with his observations of the recent World Cup.

"During Australia's improbable win over West Indies," he said, "it was very noticeable to me that the Australian players kept smiling in all circumstances. The West Indians showed in their expressions that they did not enjoy the pressure. It told in the result."

"Our top cricketers in this country play too much. English players are the only ones in the world who never miss a domestic home season and whose commitments are year-round. It is true that other countries seem to deal more successfully with the transition from 18-year-old to 25-year-old players and we are certainly losing out on some talent along the way. But we must ask ourselves if we have the right environment to encourage it."

Smith, plainly, is placing faith in the findings of the working party formed by David Adfield. The Adfield committee, which will be run on businesslike lines aided by commissioned research, will report in October on all aspects relating to the management and preparation of the national team.

The report may well propose a streamlining of the domestic structure, a scaling-down of the commitments of the leading players, an avenue to the return of a sense of occasion in their cricket — even a sense of fun. By then, a summer will have passed under new selectors and Smith's first task is to conduct an unfamiliarly complex vote, which will yield a result on April 18.

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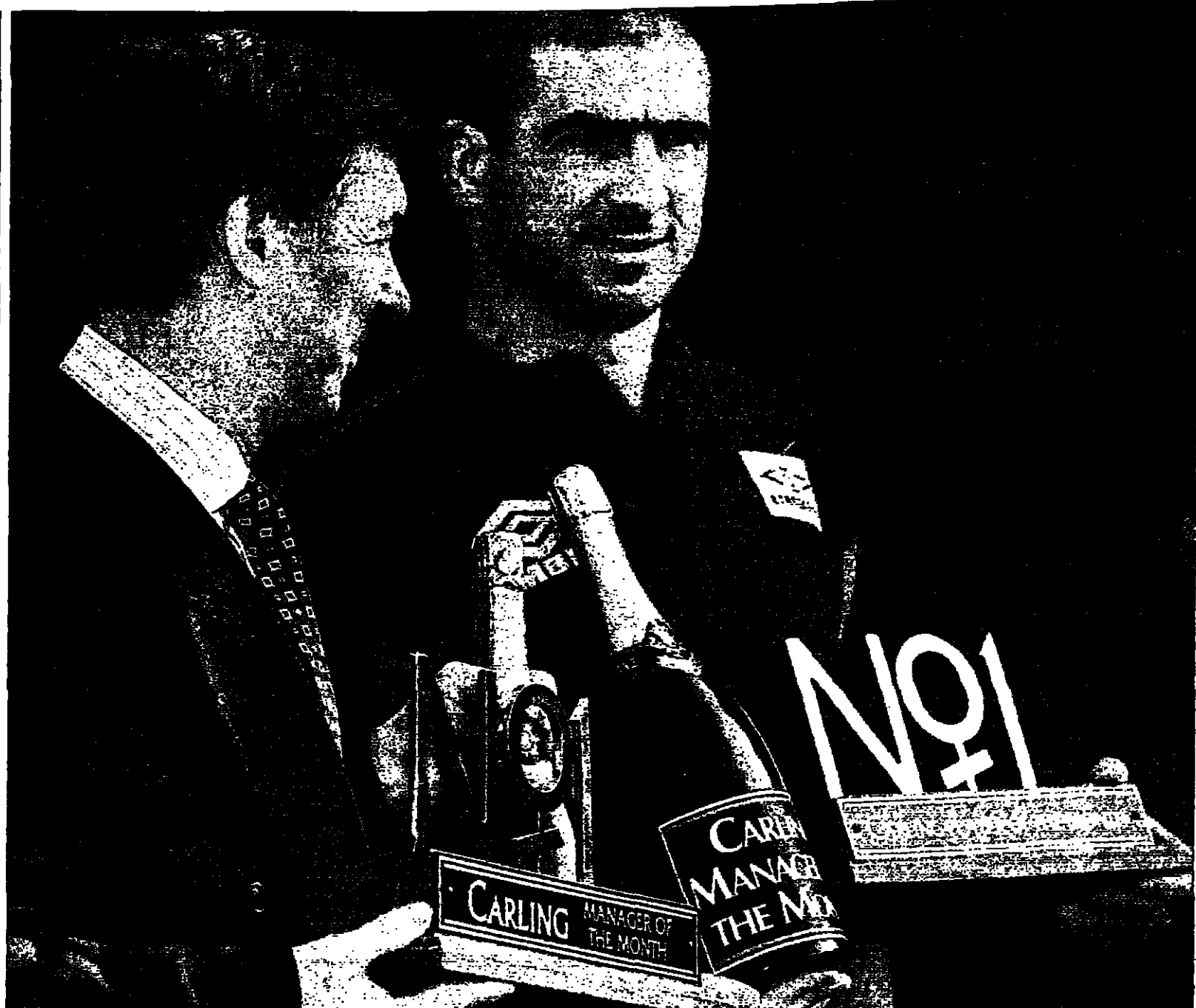
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Champagne moment: Ferguson and Cantona, of Manchester United, receive the awards for manager and player of the month yesterday

## Hall rallies to the defence of Keegan

By PETER BALL

THE defeat at Liverpool on Wednesday may have dented their title hopes, but Newcastle United remained defiant yesterday. Sir John Hall, the chairman, told critics that they were not wanted at St James's Park. "Stay away if you don't want to back Kevin [Keegan, the manager]," Hall said. "I have got no time for moaners and I have been appalled at the criticism from some quarters. These people should remember that four years ago, this club was heading for the old third division."

The loss of a 12-point lead at the top of the FA Carling Premiership has provoked criticism of Keegan's team selection and tactics in the local press and on radio from supporters who have doubted the wisdom of the introduction of Faustino Asprilla and David Batty. Outside Tyneside, others have suggested that the team's cavalier style is not conducive to winning the championship.

"Everyone must remember that all is not lost," Hall said. "We can still win the title if we stick together. The critics should remember where we have been all season and give Kevin and his players credit for that. Kevin has said he would rather quit than play any differently. Well, he knows what he is doing. The vast majority of our fans are

truly magnificent, but we don't want the knockers at St James's Park when we play QPR [tomorrow]."

Keegan received further support yesterday from Alan Ball, the Manchester City manager. "They got beaten on Wednesday, but who could grumble about the way they played?" Ball asked. "There is a lovely phrase in football, 'winning in style', and that is what Newcastle have done all season. I still think they will win the league, because I think they will win on Saturday and if we do our job against [Manchester] United, it will be wide open again."

Ray Harford, the Blackburn Rovers manager, was also unwilling to write off Newcastle, although he suggested that Manchester United are favourites, on the day that Alex Ferguson and Eric Cantona won manager and player of the month awards for March respectively.

"You have to give Fergie credit after losing three players in the summer and for putting in the kids," Harford said. "He is an excellent manager, but Eric Cantona has been special. He has governed the team and it is unusual to have a player who is in such control and who scores you the important goals as well."

Defence mechanism, page 40

## Ill feeling rife in Calcutta

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

INDIA yesterday lodged a complaint with the International Tennis Federation (ITF) over remarks made by the Sweden Davis Cup team. Carl-Axel Hageskog, the Sweden captain, was quoted on Wednesday as saying that their Davis Cup world group second-round tie against India in Calcutta could become a "hate match".

"The Indians have been really difficult. It feels like they want to muck us around on purpose," Hageskog said.

However, R. K. Khanna, honorary secretary-general of the All India Tennis Association (AITA), in a letter yesterday to Brian Tobin, the ITF president, said: "It is with great anguish, pain and shock that the association has been compelled to bring to your notice the most irresponsible, insulting and insulting remarks made by members of the Sweden team."

"They are not only contrary to the very spirit of the Davis Cup competition, but also to goodwill and understanding between nations."

Khanna urged the Davis Cup management committee and the ITF to lay down rules and code of conduct for teams, captains and players during Davis Cup matches.

"There should be strong penalties imposed as these types of statements do not build 'bridges of friendship', which a Davis Cup-tie is supposed to create."

The bad feeling between the

countries began when Stefan Edberg, the former Wimbledon champion, said he was unavailable for the tie because he was worried about falling ill in India. In a previous cup match in India, Tony Pickard, Edberg's former coach, and a Swedish journalist, a friend of Edberg's, had both been taken ill.

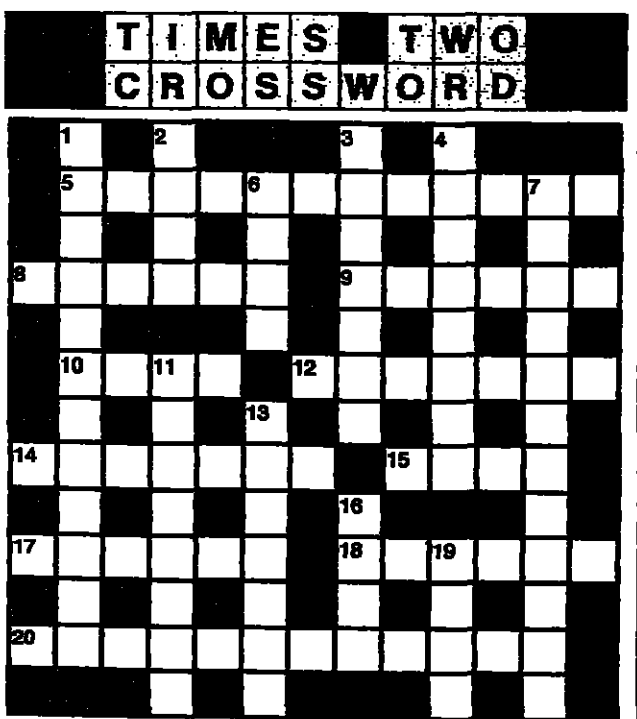
Hageskog then threatened to boycott the match after Indian customs officials held up special food and equipment. However, Khanna said that AITA had intervened and that the Sweden team's consignments had been "cleared well in time".

"It is really distressing that, starting from the damaging

statement of Stefan Edberg, the Sweden team has continued to make statements which not only smack of arrogance but also of bringing back racial overtones which have been denounced by the United Nations and ITF itself," Khanna said.

□ Boris Becker has failed to recover from bronchitis and will miss Germany's Davis Cup quarter-final match with France in Limoges this weekend.

□ Dan Maskell, the television commentator who died in 1992, and Rosie Casals, the holder of 12 doubles titles in grand-slam tournaments, have been elected to the International Tennis Hall of Fame.



No 748

- ACROSS
- 5 Skin bumps from eg horror (5,7)
  - 8 Young swan (6)
  - 9 Spring visitor, borrows nest (6)
  - 10 Forearm bone (4)
  - 12 Tiny organism (7)
  - 14 IOF (the bagpipes) sounded (7)
  - 15 Leave out (4)
  - 17 Japanese wrap (6)
  - 18 Move in from margin: requisition (6)
  - 20 Of farming (12)
- DOWN
- 1 A misunderstood 8 (H C Andersen) (4,8)
  - 2 Scholar's, lady's, formal dress (4)
  - 3 A journey round (7)
  - 4 Band of colours (8)
  - 6 European trading group (1,1,1,1,1)
  - 7 Very excessively (priced) (12)
  - 11 (Drug) producing sleep (8)
  - 13 Decent, modest behaviour (7)
  - 16 Cause to slope: charge with lance (4)
  - 19 Take a risk (4)

The solution to 747 will be published Wednesday, April 10

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## Hidden depths of stream game

Every year is the same and this year will be no different. As the Boat Race crews surge off the start, the coxes, from their seats in the stern, will have set a collision course. The crews converge, blades intertwine and the fight for the best line becomes more akin to grand prix motor racing than to this traditional day on the river.

With the Thames at Putney wide enough to accommodate several Boat Races alongside each other, why do the coxes do their best to scupper this annual fixture at the earliest opportunity?

The answer lies beneath the surface of the river over which this contest is rowed. A dredged deep water channel, 20-foot wide, runs the length of the Boat Race course. Where the river is deepest, the water flows quickest. By dominating the "stream" to the exclusion of the other crew, an advantage of perhaps one third of a boat's length accrues every couple of minutes. Where the crews are of similar speed, as is anticipated tomorrow,

Martin Watts, who coxed Oxford University to victory in the 1990 Boat Race, tells of the currents that will be lurking above and below the surface of the Tideway once tomorrow's start has been called



row, the cox who steals the stream may also steal the race. For this reason, a Boat Race cox plays a game of nerves and bluff. Moving a few inches closer to your opponents may force them to move aside and give you the fastest water; but if they hold their ground and the blades clash, chance will determine who comes out ahead.

The stakes are high. With the crews screaming off the start, a clash of blades always risks an oar being torn from a rower's grasp. To grab it back in the heat of the race is nigh impossible. The blade trails, acting as a handbrake in the water. The race is lost.

To the observer, it might appear that the umpire is the ultimate arbiter of the course the crews should follow. Usually an Old Blue of some renown, he stands in the bows of his launch like a figurehead, cap in place and flag in hand. He is, in reality, as impotent as any spectator. He has the power to disqualify, but a sanction that would never be wielded (and in the Boat Race it never has) is no power at all. The cox should know this and although a nominal acceptance of the umpire's role is wise, a choice between keeping the best stream for your crew or giving way to your

opponents at the umpire's behest is no choice at all.

Past encounters have shown that coxes rarely have problems in deciding whether to follow the umpire or their own instincts, as to where they should steer to gain the best of the stream for their crew. When the Boat Race first saw two female coxes side-by-side in 1989, the clashing began after only 40 seconds and the umpire issued his first of 19 warnings — all to little avail. Oxford, under Alison Norrish, prevailed over her American counterpart, Leigh Weiss.

Pre-race performances suggest that this 142nd Boat Race will be closely fought. With the crews of equal pace, the fight for the stream may dictate the who raises the Beefeater Trophy. So, when we watch the coxes — Todd Kristof, of Oxford, and Kevin Whymann, of Cambridge — converge tomorrow, it is inevitable, but it will not be without reason.

Veterans set pace, page 42

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*England*

FBI agents examine suspect bomb at mountain retreat

# Loner fits Unabomber profile

FROM QUENTIN LETTS  
IN NEW YORK

BOMB disposal experts were yesterday called to dismantle a device which was found behind the remote cabin of the primary suspect in the Unabomber case. Federal agents found the device after arresting Ted Kaczynski, 53, a former university teacher at his hand-built cabin in western Montana.

The unkempt Mr Kaczynski, considered a hermit by his few neighbours in Lincoln, Montana, was taken into custody and questioned in connection with a spate of bombings which began in 1978 and which placed the so-called Unabomber at the top of the FBI's most wanted list.

For the main suspect in such a notorious case, Mr Kaczynski cut an extraordinary figure. His straggly beard, long hair and disdain for modern conveniences such as electricity and a car appeared to be more in keeping with a tramp than an alleged bomber.

The device found at the back of his cabin was described as a partly assembled bomb, but



A photo-fit of the Unabomber and Mr Kaczynski's entry in the 1962 Harvard Yearbook

**THEODORE JOHN KACZYNSKI**  
Born: May 22, 1942 in Chicago, Ill. Prepared at Evergreen Park H.S., Evergreen Park, Ill. Home Address: 9299 Leveille, Evergreen Park, Ill. Field of Concentration: Mathematics. Scholarship and Private Harvard College Scholarship.



was nonetheless being treated gingerly by police. "We're not sure if it is booby-trapped," said one agent. "We have an explosives ordnance team X-raying everything before we touch it."

The suspect's psychological profile is said to match that formed for the Unabomber, who has in the past proclaimed a disdain for technology and the industrialisation of Western society. The meticulous bomber is wanted for the murder of three people and for injuring 23 others in a series of attacks. Targets were commonly universities or businesses linked to technology. Mr Kaczynski, who was arrested after his brother

tipped off the FBI, is a native of Illinois and was a high-performing student at Harvard. He took a PhD at the University of Michigan, where his thesis was praised by the teaching staff. The University of Michigan was one of the Unabomber's targets in 1985.

Mr Kaczynski went on to teach maths at the University of California, Berkeley, from 1967 to 1969. Inexplicably, he then gave up Academe to take up menial jobs in Utah in the 1970s. A decade ago he bought land in Montana, a state known not only for its hauntingly beautiful wilderness but also as a preferred destination for loners who want to escape

from modern life. Photographs of a younger Mr Kaczynski betrayed similarities to the well-known police sketch of a moustachioed, hooded Unabomber. The jaw line was the same, and the lips were similarly thin and pursed.

Mr Kaczynski's brother, David, found suspicious papers in the family attic one day. David Kaczynski is described as a "vegetarian pacifist and tree-loving Buddhist" who was appalled by the writings he discovered. They resembled the anti-technology manifesto written by the Unabomber which was published in national newspapers last year at his demand.

The family disclosed that Ted Kaczynski regularly bought airline tickets from Montana to California. Some of the trips coincided with attacks made by the Unabomber.

A \$1 million (£600,000) reward has been offered for the arrest of the Unabomber, but it is too early to say if this will be offered to David Kaczynski.

The hunt for the Unabomber has acquired its own mythology and the search has ranged as far afield as Afghanistan. Mr Kaczynski is expected to be formally charged and may face trial in California.

Louis Bertman, a former special agent, said that he believed Mr Kaczynski was one of several men questioned by the Unabomber investigators in Salt Lake City in the 1980s. "He fits many pieces of the profile," said Mr Bertman.

Another FBI source was quoted as saying: "We like the look of this guy as the Unabomber, but we don't have make-or-break evidence yet. We have some writings that match up but we don't have his tools yet. We want the irrefutable, mother-lode evidence."

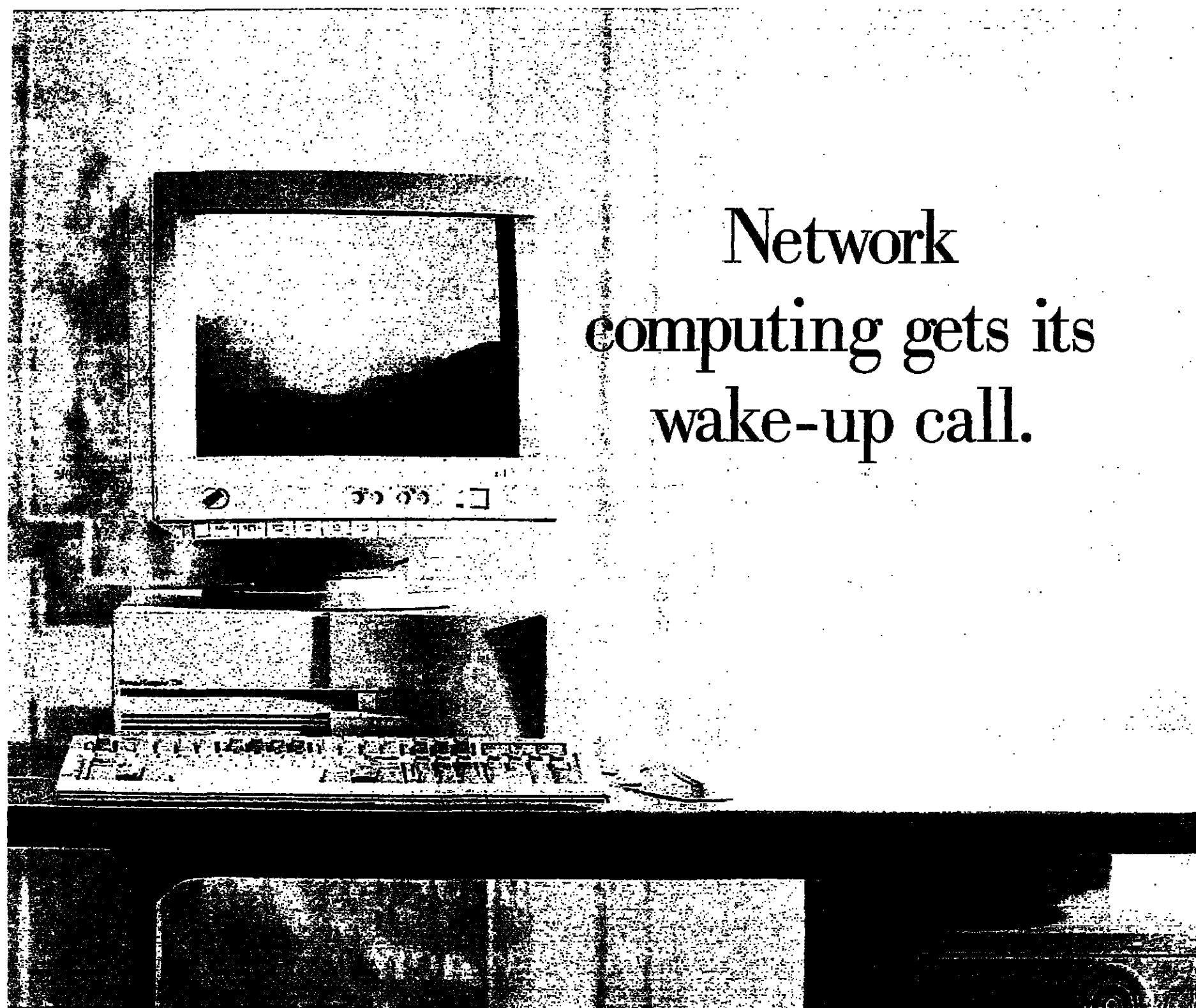


Ted Kaczynski, the suspected Unabomber, who was arrested at his Montana cabin

## ROLLCALL OF VICTIMS

May 26 1978: 1 hurt by package bomb at Northwestern Univ  
May 9 1979: 1 hurt in further attack at Northwestern Univ  
Nov 15 1979: 12 injured — explosion, American Airlines flight  
Jun 10 1980: United Airlines's president injured in Chicago  
Oct 8 1981: Bomb found at Univ of Utah, Salt Lake City  
May 5 1982: 1 injured at Vanderbilt Univ, Nashville  
Jul 2 1982: Professor injured at Univ of California, Berkeley  
May 15 1985: 1 injured in computer room, UC-Berkeley  
Jun 13 1985: Package disarmed — Boeing HQ, Washington  
Nov 15 1985: 2 hurt at Univ of Michigan, Ann Arbor  
Dec 11 1985: Computer store owner killed — Sacramento, Calif  
Feb 20 1987: 1 injured — computer store, Salt Lake City  
Jun 22 1993: Geneticist from UC-San Francisco injured  
Jun 24 1993: Yale computer scientist injured — New Haven  
Dec 10 1994: Advertising chief killed — N Caldwell, New Jersey  
Apr 24 1995: Lumber lobbyist killed in Sacramento office

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<sup>1</sup>Future version of NetFinity will be known as PC SystemView. <sup>2</sup>Internal Speed. External Speed = 66MHz. Intel, Pentium and ProShare are trademarks of Intel Corporation.

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## Hutus kill four in raid on hospital

Nairobi: About 200 Hutu extremists attacked a hospital in southern Burundi, killing four people, looting a pharmacy and burning ambulances, aid workers said. An anaesthetist was killed in the attack at Makamba, 50 miles south of Bujumbura. Three other people were killed and four wounded in a nearby market, which was also looted, Lieutenant-Colonel Nicodemus Nduhirubusa, an army spokesman, said. He said the extremists had been moving south from around the capital to escape army attacks, but the military also suspected that some may have come from Zaire. (AP)

## Sacking over Chernobyl leak

Kiev: A top safety official at the Chernobyl nuclear plant has lost his job over an accident last November which was covered up at the time, the plant announced. Several high-ranking officials were ordered to retake nuclear safety exams. In the accident, a drop of nuclear fuel leaked from the plant's reactor No. 1, exposing one worker to a year's permitted radiation dose. The West wants the plant closed. (AP)

## Mass graves 300 years old

Vienna: Skeletons found in ten mass graves in western Austria were probably the victims of a peasant uprising more than 300 years ago, experts said. The remains of 102 people, at first linked to the Holocaust, were discovered more than two months ago at Lambach, about 140 miles west of Vienna, during work on a hydroelectric plant. (AP)

## Seoul students' funeral protest

Seoul: More than 10,000 militant South Korean students abandoned a funeral service for a colleague who died in a clash with police and marched through Seoul pressing for an apology from President Kim Young Sam. Police fired tear-gas at the protesters near the city hall and hours of street battles ensued. (Reuters)

## Bamboozled

Phnom Penh: Khmer Rouge guerrillas have slowed a Cambodian government advance on one of their key bases by deploying mock tanks fashioned from bamboo, a Khmer-language paper said. (AP)

## Randolph Hearst bows to nephew

BY QUENTIN LETTS

RANDOLPH HEARST, last surviving son of the newspaper baron immortalised in *Citizen Kane*, has been replaced as chairman of the family media group. Mr Hearst, 80, whose father was the bombastic William Randolph Hearst, has left his job amid talk of secret board votes, plotting and ill will.

His job has gone to his 68-year-old nephew George Hearst, who, according to one colourful account, "already had the gavel in his hand" at the annual board meeting at which his uncle yielded control.

Company officials denied talk of a "coup" and Frank Bannack, chief executive, said: "I have known for some time that Randolph Hearst would step down following his 80th birthday. Our annual meeting was the logical time." Mr Bannack himself may have been an element in the corporate reshuffle; his handling of the company was reportedly questioned by Randolph Hearst's third and current wife, Veronica.

The socially active Mrs Hearst, 50-something and often dubbed the "Queen of New York", was credited with calling for Mr Bannack's head at a family gathering last month.

George Hearst was head of the company's property wing and represents a side of the family that has not previously had control of the company. Its media interests include magazines such as *Cosmopolitan* and *Esquire*, and numerous American newspapers including the *San Francisco Examiner*. The company is still powerful, but it will be the new chairman's task to retrieve some of its former might and to polish divisions that have lost their luster.

There was, apparently, no mention of the change at a recent birthday party for Randolph Hearst — whose daughter is the former tearaway Patty Hearst. He is described by friends as being "still very sharp" and his departure robs the American newspaper business of a link with its heyday.

His father, who founded the company in 1887, combined canny business instincts with a natural chutzpah. He challenged the supremacy of the mercurial Joseph Pulitzer and produced punchy, vivid newspapers for the man on the street.

If there is even a percentage of truth in the rumours about George Hearst's political skills, it may mark an interesting new chapter in the family story.

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2014/04/05



## Air disaster on Croatian mountain robs American business of leading corporate executives

# Ron Brown death plane 'was badly off course'

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON



Victims included, from left, London-based Stuart Tholan, Leonard Pieroni and Nathaniel Nash

THE plane carrying Ron Brown, the US Commerce Secretary, was badly off course before it crashed in Croatia, killing all 35 people on board, senior American officials confirmed yesterday.

Nato helicopters began to bring the bodies of the passengers off the mountain last night. The remains were later unloaded at Dubrovnik airport and transported to a makeshift mortuary.

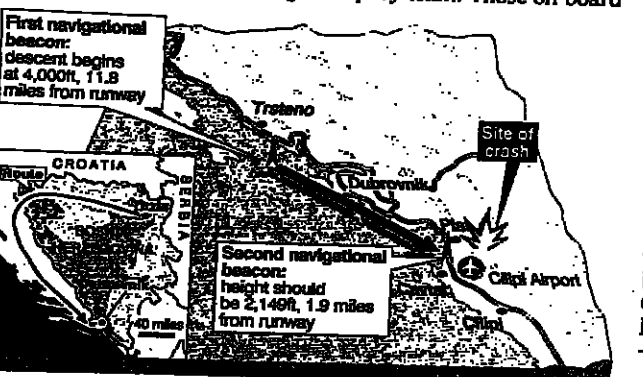
American and Croatian officials could not explain why the plane had veered off the normal coastal approach to Dubrovnik airport and was flying through a valley one mountain range away from the coastline. "The plane was not where it should have been. It is going to be hard to account for differences about where the plane was," said John Galbraith, the American Ambassador to Croatia.

Mr Brown was originally to have taken a smaller aircraft to the Adriatic resort from Zagreb, the Croatian capital, but, typically, he agreed to a change of plan after several of the American businessmen accompanying him expressed a strong interest in visiting Dubrovnik. Mr Brown was keen to do whatever he could to help American firms to secure overseas contracts.

The decision to visit Dubrovnik was welcomed by Croat officials as an opportunity to demonstrate that the city was open for investment again after the Serb pounding it took during the early stages of the war. Zlatko Matasa, the

Prime Minister of Croatia, and senior economic officials, had flown in 20 minutes before Mr Brown was due to arrive.

The fatal flight plan went ahead in spite of atrocious weather at Dubrovnik. Mr Galbraith described it as "the worst storm in a decade". He said blinding rain and lightning flashes were seen over the crash site, and there was the additional hazards of low clouds and strong winds. The airport, which had been closed to regular traffic, was being



included a rollcall of chief corporate executives, whose companies were trying to cope with the tragedy yesterday.

Among them were Barry Conrad, chairman of Barrington group, a hotel and restaurant concern; Robert Donovan, president of ABB Inc, makers of power generating equipment; Claudio Elia, chairman of Air and Water Technologies; Frank Maier, president of Enserch International, a gas company; Walter Murphy, vice-president of ATT Submarine Systems; Leonard Pieroni, chairman of Parsons Corp, a large engineering firm; Stuart Tholan, a Bechtel executive and Donald Turner, president of Bridge Housing Corp.

All had gone to the Balkans, paying their own way on Mr Brown's plane, to find business opportunities provided by the \$5 billion (£3.26 billion) international plan to rebuild the region after the war.

Two executives decided not to go at the last minute because of more pressing matters. Dan Bannister, chief of Dyncorp, a technology company, said: "The good Lord spared me for a purpose. Now I've got to figure out what the purpose is."

Six members of Mr Brown's staff died with him, along with Nathaniel Nash of The New York Times. Also among the victims was Jim Lewicki, 44, an intelligence analyst for the CIA who specialised in Balkan economic reconstruction.



Dennis Mosso, a park ranger, lowers a flag at the Washington Monument yesterday in honour of Mr Brown

## Loss of adviser leaves Clinton's economic flank exposed to Republican attacks

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE death of Ron Brown, the popular if controversial Commerce Secretary, cast an unusually long shadow over Washington yesterday. Flags were at half-mast and President Clinton joined a private service of prayer for his favoured former colleague.

Inside the White House, the mood was described as "uniquely somber". Few expect an immediate

replacement for Mr Brown. His department has been in a siege mentality for almost a year, with Republicans in Congress calling for its abolition.

"The President will want to find someone with enough savvy and spine to battle for the agency's survival," a White House aide said.

As the quintessential Washington insider who could bring the black and white communities in America together and who was

credited with helping Mr Clinton to win the presidency in 1992, Mr Brown is likely to be sorely missed in the coming campaign.

"He was one of the last giants of the party," said Timothy May, managing partner of Paxon, Boggs, the powerful law firm in which Mr Brown formerly worked. "He was the wisest head in the Cabinet."

The relationship between Mr Brown, the most powerful of the Administration's black politicians,

and Mr Clinton appeared to have been unmatched by any other member of the Cabinet. Along among the Cabinet Secretaries he would attend the Wednesday evening political strategy meetings at the White House.

Mr Clinton considered Mr Brown an invaluable tactician whose successful chairmanship of the Democratic National Committee during the last election cemented both a personal and political friendship.

Under investigation himself for alleged fraud and taking bribes, Mr Brown had offered advice to the Clintons at the height of their troubles over the failed White-water land deal.

Mr Brown had entered the often lethargic Commerce Department as a new broom and pushed the agency to the hub of the Administration's economic policy by emphasising promotion of exports. His loss now has left a department rudderless at a critical moment for

Mr Clinton. Mary Good, the Under-Secretary for Technology, has been made acting Commerce Secretary.

Without high-powered political appointees, the department will become an inviting target for Republicans who have vowed that it will be eliminated as part of the crusade to balance the budget. The November general election may well become a referendum on balancing the budget, and a weak Commerce Department will be-

come even more attractive prey as the campaign begins in earnest.

Mack McLarty, the former White House Chief of Staff, a close friend of Mr Clinton from Arkansas and a former corporate executive, is considered the most likely successor to Mr Brown. However, the President may feel he should find a black appointee. Under these circumstances, Vernon Jordan, the power broker who headed Mr Clinton's transition team, is a possible candidate.

## Brazilian convicts in gun battles after prison escape

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN RIO DE JANEIRO

BRAZILIAN authorities were in pursuit yesterday of more than 30 armed convicts who escaped from a high-security prison after staging riots, taking hostages and making their getaway in limousines provided by the Government.

Inhabitants of the city of Goiania, the capital of central Goias state, were forced to take refuge in their homes as car chases and shootings took place on the streets throughout the day. Escaped convicts, wielding shotguns from car windows, looted newspaper stands and off-licenses and danced in the street.

Of the 40 convicts who got away, holding guns to the heads of six hostages on Wednesday night, six were recaptured yesterday during street gun battles, and two more were killed. Two policemen were also killed and a

woman died after getting caught in crossfire.

The prisoners had negotiated with local civilian authorities who decided to hand over the cars, weapons and \$100,000 (£65,000) in exchange for a promise that the hostages would be released unharmed. Among the hostages are a local judge, a lawyer and several guards.

Two hostages were freed yesterday but the remainder were kept as getaway shields.

The chaotic chase on the streets of Goiania came during a prison riot at the Agro-Industrial Penitentiary Centre of Goias which began five days ago in protest at conditions in Brazilian prisons. The jail, 18 miles outside the city where more than 5,000 convicts share fewer than 100 cells, is typical of the majority of overcrowded prisons in

Brazil. Yesterday prison authorities managed to establish some control within the Goias prison after the escape of what are thought to have been the leaders of the rebellion. However, some of the convicts continued to gather around bonfires on the rooftops and others remained barricaded in the jail.

Leonardo Pareja, the leader of the rioting convicts who was among the escapees, surrendered to police yesterday after going to a bar in Goias and buying rounds of beer for everyone standing by, with money handed over as part of the deal between the prisoners and the authorities.

A police spokesman blamed local civilian authorities for the chaos. "This must be the only country to make deals with convicted murderers," he said. "It is embarrassing."

## Mickey Mouse goes for a home run

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

MICKEY MOUSE is moving into baseball. After a year of secretive and often tense negotiations, the Walt Disney Company has bought a key stake in one of southern California's two major league baseball teams and has agreed to sink \$70 million (£46 million) into renovating its stadium.

The California Angels, whose stadium in Anaheim is barely five minutes drive from Disneyland, are to be renamed the Anaheim Angels and operated for at least 20 years by the ever-expanding Disney entertainment giant.

In keeping with the company's reputation for obsessive attention to detail and marketing, the Angels will undergo a wholesale image makeover. There will be new uniforms, new team merchandise and rebuilding of food halls.

The team logo is to be redesigned, probably around the angel's halo motif used in publicity material for the Disney baseball film *Angels in the Outfield*. This is one of countless ways that the company is expected to use its vast resources to promote its acquisition.

"You can anticipate a Desert Storm kind of operation," Tony Tavares, president of Disney Sports Enterprises, said. Winning baseball matches may be another matter. The California Angels have languished near the bottom of the American League ever since moving to smog-bound Anaheim in 1966. Ticket sales have fallen steadily and the team's stadium is regarded as among the least charming.

Such are the challenges relished by company, which has expanded into cruise lines, adult education and even building entire towns since Michael Eisner took over as chairman 12 years ago. It has also set up an ice hockey team, the Mighty Ducks. The team hardly won a single game in its first season, but its sales of merchandise have never been beaten.

## Bishops ban Madonna

FROM ADAM LEBOR IN BUDAPEST

WE MAY be living in a material world, but money can't buy everything — as the American pop idol Madonna discovered after being banned from filming in Budapest's Basilica.

Madonna, in Hungary to film *Evita* in which she plays Eva Peron, wife of Juan Peron, Argentina's former right-wing ruler, has outraged Roman Catholics for years by her use of Christian symbols and crosses in videos and live performances. Now the bishops have struck back. Even a reported offer of 60 million forints (£300,000) to film in the Basilica has failed to budge church officials.

Catholics were offended by Madonna's public nakedness, said Endre Foldi, chaplain of the Basilica. "Madonna is an immoral person and her behaviour does not belong in church. The whole world knows what she is like and we cannot humiliate the Church or denigrate it by having her naked in the church. Anyone who shows her naked body in front of men is immoral. Everyone in the Church

agrees with this decision, from Rome down."

However, she would be allowed to enter to pray as a private individual, he said.

The Basilica, in Pest, can hold more than 8,000 worshippers and is the site of Hungary's holiest Catholic relic, the right hand of St Stephen.

Madonna, who arrived in Budapest last week, has declined all interviews. Her co-stars include Antonio Banderas and Jonathan Pryce.

The producer, Andrew Vajna, hoped church officials would change their minds. "Evita" in her career was received by the Pope in Rome. That is the specific scene that we wanted to film here in Hungary, which would have been very positive and helpful for us, and for religion as a whole."



Madonna: on way to a Budapest reception

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# The no-fuss clothes show

After the hype and hullabaloo of Europe, New York gets on with what it does best

*Fashion journalist of the year*



IAIN R. WEBB

The mood during this season's New York Fashion Week, which finished on Wednesday, was as muted as the designers' predictions for next winter's colours: plum, forest green, battleship grey, bitter chocolate and rust. Yet the downbeat feeling was not the fault of the designers, many of whom produced strong collections: it was a reaction to the great expectations of the media pack whose appetites had been whetted by the antics of the European designers in London, Milan and Paris.

During Paris Fashion Week Liza Minnelli was asked why she was sitting in the front row at Jean Paul Gaultier. "Because fashion is the new theatre," she said.

It used to be that you would arrive in New York at the end of the four-city-in-as-many-weeks "fashionathon" and get to see well-edited shows presented in the designers' showrooms. It wasn't always easy. Conditions were cramped, but at least you were able to see the clothes and almost reach out and touch the fabrics. There weren't ridiculous accessories to clutter the scene, or socio-political statements to confuse the business of the day, ie, what women will be wearing in six months.

So now what do we get? Media overkill. Instead of Liza there was kd lang, the country singer, sitting in the front row being asked what she thought of the show so far. "Crazy!" she said. Exactly.

There were hordes of camera crews and fashion groupies lending a circus atmosphere to the cavernous tents on 42nd Street. There was even a Ronald McDonald clown in the audience at the Anna Sui show, and bags of popcorn



CALVIN KLEIN: sensual matt jersey. MICHAEL KORS: darned near perfect



## NEW YORK

were handed out to the crowd on their way in. There appeared to be anything and everything to keep the attention away from the clothes. I mean, does anyone really care what Mike Tyson (another front-row celebrity) thinks about next autumn's shades?

It is not surprising that designers are beginning to abandon the tents to show their collections in more appropriate and sympathetic surroundings. On the vast Gertrude Pavilion catwalk, in Bryant Park, an understated trouser suit (narrow and lean), a jersey dress (fluted at the hem, somewhere between knee and floor), a maxi-coat (omnipresent) or a sweater and trouser look (textured knit, wide pants) can look nothing special, but in a smaller venue they appear a truly attractive option.

"A lot of fashion shows are not about the clothes any more," says the designer Michael Kors. "They are about the models or they are about clothes which designers will never make. All you are doing is sending out information into the world about clothes which you will never see in the stores anyway. You automatically turn the consumer off. I show the clothes up close in the showroom. There is no faking it. If these clothes aren't perfect you know it."

Kors's collection was darned near perfect. In his tiny showroom he showed gorgeous cashmere, moire, Prince of Wales plaids and leather in classic shades cut into giant sweaters worn with streamlined trousers. A-line midi-skirts worn with crisp white shirts or skinny tops, camel coats tailored to perfection, tunics with deep V-plunge necklines, and the new suit: a coat and trouser combination. Touches of gold and silver added a luxurious sheen.

If luxury is your wont, Ralph Lauren is your man. Lauren deals in little else; even the catwalk at his swanky Madison Avenue headquarters was covered in plush camel wool. The collection was equally special. The designer has skillfully honed down the wardrobe of his customer but now dresses it up with sumptuous and often surprising fabrics. Lean trouser suits and evening dresses are both cut in fine grey jersey. A crumple-style coat is made from mauve velvet. Utterly gorgeous.

Marc Jacobs and Todd Oldham both chose the Puck Building in Union Square as the location for their shows. Both offered collections which hinted at decadence. Jacobs cut deluxe fabrics into delightfully simple pieces: a tie-belt maxi-coat (an essential buy) in ruby red wool, a slip of a dress sparkling with tiny beads, or another in lace lacquered with a sheen of gold. Oldham showed leggy trouser-suits



MIU MIU: Pretty schoolgirl undies

made from unlikely-looking plaids in candybox shades teamed with equally colourful faux-fur mufflers. This richly textured bohemian mood continued throughout the shows.

The American designers have a new muse. Obvious glamour has been replaced by a more intellectual take on beauty. Forget Jerry Hall and think Radcliffe Hall.

At MiU MiU this meant little grey sweaters worn over black or white cotton undershirts trimmed with lace borders, sensible knee-length kilts, schoolgirl tailoring in camel, bitter chocolate and grey, and some very pretty empire-line dresses laced with satin ribbons to look like elongated camisoles. Everything was worn with thick grey tights.

New York catwalks were filled with the blue-stocking brigade, while some wore plum, burnt orange, black or red versions.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHRIS MOORE



ANNA SUI: Twenties Bohemia revisited with a luxurious and eccentric mix of rich colour and plush textures



(From left) MARC JACOBS: decadent. ANNA SUI: Bloomsbury. RICHARD TYLER: argyle

The mood at Calvin Klein was sombre yet stunning, his clothes coloured bitter chocolate, aubergine, khaki, navy blue, battleship grey and plum. Klein stayed true to his minimalist roots with a universally refined silhouette. Wickedly tailored trouser suits featured military details, while jersey crossover jackets and chunky knit floor-skimming

cardigan coats tied neatly at the waist. His finale of ultra-slim, long evening dresses that exposed a modest amount of flesh was only bettered by colour-blocked below-the-knee matt jersey dresses which nodded to the Berlin of Christopher Isherwood.

If Klein's muse was Minnelli's portrayal of Sally Bowles, then Anna Sui fa-

voured Twiggy as Polly Browne in Ken Russell's film *The Boyfriend*. Sui's collection — an eccentric mix of warm autumn hues and textured fabrics — was spot-on. Zigzag and shaded knits (*la la* the newly revived Missoni in Milan) were teamed with playful plaids, rich velvets, sumptuous suede, shiny leather and fluffy fake fur. Sui's madcap

styling gave essentially covetable clothes a down-town edge. It was only after dark that the designer got into a flap with jet-beaded, black chiffon drop-waist dresses which made even Linda Evangelista look like an extra from *The House of Eliott*.

Donna Karan's collection wasn't easy. She just tried too hard. Her unswerving silhouette (long and ultra-lean) and sheer clingy fabrics looked too dour, the presentation too serious. Best were her knitted turtlenecks (a must have) worn with long, slinky satin skirts, and the more straightforward tailored pieces: a maxi-coat in army green or orange, a milky white double-breasted jacket, and a suede tie-belt version.

The joy of New York fashion is that it offers something simply special. A bias-cut part-see-through dress at Ghost; an updated argyle knit at Richard Tyler; technicoloured velvets at Isaac Mizrahi or a long suede skirt teamed with a sweater at DKNY.

The real luxury is being able to see them up close. No fuss, no drama. I mean, if I had wanted theatre in New York I would have booked tickets to see *Sunset Boulevard* on Broadway.



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دعوات الالهي



# Still in the Python's embrace

Michael Palin is a relentless worker — film actor, writer, campaigner — but he is never allowed to forget the TV show that founded a comic dynasty

The day before we were to meet, I ran into Michael Palin on Hampstead Heath. Or rather, he sprinted past me in his shorts — "Shall we do the interview now?" — and vanished into the distance. I thought, for one moment, "I used to see Michael jogging," he says. "The pair of us would approach from different ends of the hill, catch sight of each other, and immediately strengthen our backs and run a bit more sprightly pace."

The six-page curriculum vitae that arrives with the paperback of his novel, *Hemingway's Chair*, states: "Michael Palin, who is not called 'Palin'... lives in moody splendour in North London. Moody splendour? Cheerful domesticity, I call it."

Helen answers the door: she is the farmer's daughter he met in his teens at Stowmarket on the Suffolk coast, and married 30 years ago. She apologises for her shorn curls, the legacy of an operation on her head — of which more later. Rachel, their youngest, who is reading history at Brasenose in father's footsteps — and unlike Tracey Ullman in Palin's excellent *A Class Act*, she went to the local-state school — is making Palin very proud with photographs of herself in the college women's soccer team.

The Palins started like most people with one house, and now have three, knocked into one, forming a modest palazzo on the corner of a quiet cul-de-sac. Clare Latimer of Clare's Kitchen used to have the house next door. Her famous kitchen is now their parlour. Palin claims to long for a country house. But why? He knows it is preferable at weekends to feel you don't have to go anywhere "except Soho or the Screen on the Hill".

With *Hemingway's Chair*, comes a jolting promo tape in which he says his book is on sale at good bookshops, and the odd, but not very, add-on. It is a testimonial to Palin's busy life since he got the taste for stand-up cabaret at Oxford. As well as all the films and sketches and travels, the plays and children's books, Palin turns up in small films (*The Dress*) and on radio (in Ronald Harwood's *The Dresser*). "I do have a low boredom threshold," he says.

Ever since Edward Whitley interviewed Palin for his book *The Graduates*, Palin has enjoyed a dangerous reputation among nervous hawks. Young Whitley — who has now become Nick Leeson's ghost-writer, but was then a naive 21-year-old — was em-

## THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



boldened to tell Palin that he did not think his film *The Missionary* was all that funny. Palin ended up running out of his own house ("Don't 'Mister Palin' me! I'm not a man who gets angry very often, but you have been one of the rudest people I've ever had to talk to") slamming the door and leaving the hapless Whitley baffled in his study — an episode as hilarious as a Python sketch.

**'I meet people everywhere who know every episode of Python by heart — I suppose it's a form of flattery'**

Luckily I can say I enjoyed *Hemingway's Chair*, which Palin wishes were not labelled a comic novel. "People might feel a bit short-changed. It's not Tom Sharpe."

It is about an ordinary bloke named Martin Sprole, who, like the hero of *Il Postino*, lives a quiet life in the Post Office. He has an unlikely obsession with Hemingway, whose macho persona he begins to emulate when a sharp American lady, Flamingo, arrives in the town. Palin read *For Whom the Bell Tolls* at school: "The nearest you get to doing a sexy book for a level. The earth moved, and all that. I saw Martin as someone who admired Hemingway in a train-spotter's list-making way, which suited someone who worked in a Post Office, he knew all the diseases Hemingway had, and how many times he banged his head when drunk." Martin's humdrum job enables Palin to embrace a wider polemic: the little man at the centre of the community, battling against modern technology, rationalisation, automation.

This year, too, we shall see the film *Pierce* (origin-

inal working title *Death Fish 2*), but meanwhile Palin has been travelling again: the Pacific Rim. "Alaska, Siberia, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Philippines, Malaysia, Java, Australia, New Zealand," he says. "Bet you wish you hadn't asked." They are unlikely to give the series the disgusting title Eric Idle suggested — *Palin's Rim*. The horrifying news of his wife's brain tumour came while he was in Borneo. "I'd just been to Sarawak, filming some people about headhunting, when she rang me." (The joke didn't escape John Cleese: "You could have brought one back for Helen," he said.) "It explained the headaches she'd had for about ten years."

Helen, realistic and practical, told her husband not to rush home, he would only make everyone nervous. "The great thing about the world now is, although I may rail against technological communication, you can ring a hospital in London from the remotest parts of Borneo. So I could talk to the surgeon half an hour after the operation and hear that it had all gone smoothly." He is very funny about the Far East, where he felt like a dodging Gulliver among the Lilliputians, enthralled by Japanese high-tech computerised loom with eight different jet settings, and hot or cold air and anal massages — which he will demonstrate in sound only.

Palin pioneered the current wave of comedians and chat show hosts such as Clives James and Anderson travelling to foreign parts. "It's a bit like asking, could you have done Monty Python without the Goons having gone before? When we did *Around the World in 80 Days*, it freed up travel documentaries from serious travel writers — who probably look down on television travellers, with our camera crews and they think limousines."

"People still think television is swash with money. But we get more mileage from staying in a village police station than in a Hilton or a Four Seasons, which are all the same and completely unfilmable."

Like Spike Milligan and Harry Secombe, forever Goons, all the Pythons are former Pythons. The continued vitality of *Monty Python* — put together in a rush in 1969 — astonishes them all. They meet people everywhere who know every episode by heart. "I suppose it's a form of flattery."

In New Zealand he was inducted in a Maori ceremony and had to sing a song. "I was fed up with doing my normal party piece, the Lumberjack song, so I gave them my old



Michael Palin: the latest book enables him, to embrace the little man at the centre of the community, battling against modern technology

school song, *Floreat Salopia*. The Latin all came back to me and they all applauded." He was at Shrewsbury after Ingrams and Rushton, a contemporary of John Peel, or John Ravenscroft as he then was.

Palin fronted the BBC's *Mental Health Week* and spoke about the suicide, nine years ago, of his sister Angela at 52 — and the mystery of how "someone so popular, efficient, who could bake such wonderful cakes, serve a tennis ball so well, would deliberately attach a knife to the back of her car". Palin also spoke of his own bouts of depression, and aired his grievance about his stammering, bullying father. It looked as if Palin was conforming to the "sad clown" norm.

But the things that get him irate are just normal urban irritations: Camden council

refusing to remove graffiti "unless it is of an explicitly political nature", local government giving up making people feel they can do anything about anything, even cleaning up their own streets. The sight from his study window: to the left, a blank 1970s concrete block; to the right, 1870s artisans' dwellings. "And I cannot ever prefer what is on the left to what is on the right."

The good thing about being a celebrity is that you can, when asked, lend your name to causes. For two years he chaired Transport 2000, championing railways, stopping motorways, opening cycleways. He marvels that we still collide in the celebration of the car. "Where are we going to put the cars? Eventually it will get quite violent and unpleasant. In Japan they have ingeniously designed small city cars and streamline Honda vans, while we continue to buy huge

things you could traverse the Kalahari Desert in, cross raging rivers and up mountain-sides — and you're only driving from Kentish Town to Brent Cross. Size denotes economic virility. I do have a car — the smallest Mercedes there is. But I still find it nightmarish to be in a traffic jam opposite a bus stop with

people waiting for a bus that I'm holding up." With the world his oyster, he is often asked his favourite place. "I tend to like cities best, but I think the west coasts of Ireland or Scotland are the most beautiful places in the world — both accessible yet isolated."

He set his novel on the grey

Suffolk coast, where his parents retired. "It has a complete lack of drama. No peaks or lulls or overwhelming majesty, but a solitary feeling. When my mother was alive I could walk along the beach and think melancholy thoughts — knowing there was a cup of tea and a muffin at the end of it."

## You're only as fat as you feel

Iane Gordon discovers a foolproof solution for the woman who wants to shed pounds effortlessly

If it were possible to add up all the money I have spent on slimming aids, diet foods and self-help books since I first became obsessed with my body image at the age of 19, it would probably amount, pound for pound, to at least five times my weight. The systems and schemes I have invested in are, when I look back at them now, a rather sad indictment of our times and my own inability to accept that the image thrown at me by my own mirror and the images pushed at me by society don't have to match.

Over the years, I've put myself through a series of tortuous regimes in order to make the scales balance in my favour. I have struggled with the P-Plan, the Hip and Thigh, the Cambridge Formula, the Mao Clinic System and a two-year sentence at Weight Watchers, all the while following the rule that it was not recommended to weigh myself at home. I have bought Lora Cuisines, Slimfast, Slimfast, fat-free ice-creams, herbal appetite suppressants and several self-hypnosis videos that promised to teach me the secrets of successful slimming. At my most crazed I even

enrolled at one of those Harley Street clinics where a man in a white coat — who claimed to be a doctor — injected me through my thighs. I have used diuretics, laxatives and, once, drugs. But whenever I stopped, the same thing would happen. My weight would go up again. And now, finally, after years of desperately striving, I discovered a far simpler way of making the scales read the way I always wanted them to. In fact this week, on hearing about the Elaine Smith slimming system, it is probably true to say that the scales have finally fallen from my eyes. Because on Tuesday, at the end of the Elaine Smith slimming group session, trading standards officers in Dudley, West Midlands, asked 40 of her dieters to be indepen-



The classic fat lady: by Donald McGill

dently weighed on a set of new electronic scales. And they discovered that the women were between 2lb and 15lb heavier than the figures registered on Elaine's own sliding

weight scales which are officially calibrated every year.

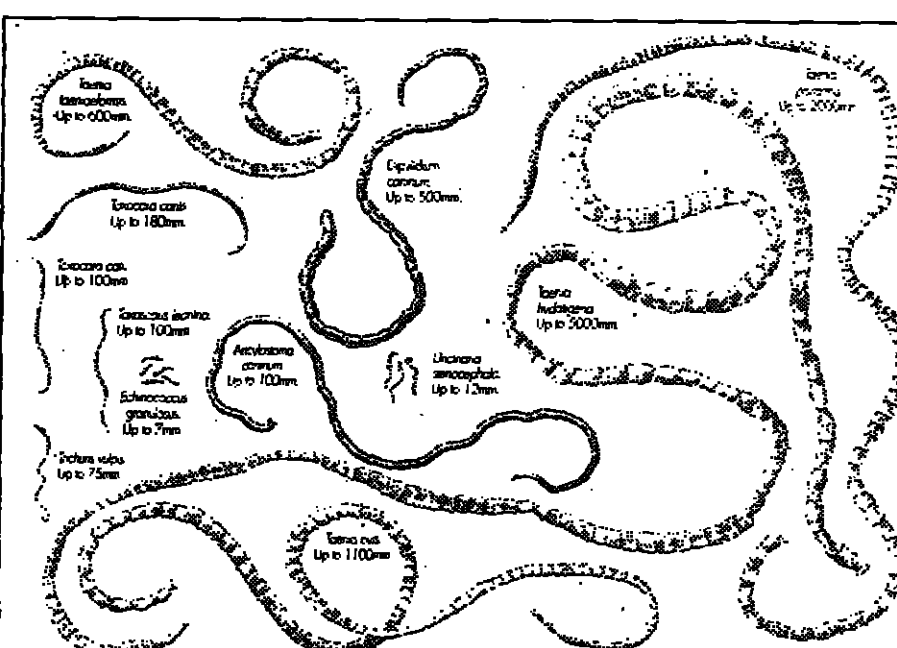
Whether or not an impending investigation proves that Elaine Smith's scales were not properly balanced — an allegation she vehemently denies — the story offers us an interesting insight into the whole slimming business. Because while one or two of Elaine's regulars had been suspicious of the fact that each week at the weigh-in they would register a loss regardless of how much they had eaten, a great many more were perfectly happy with the results of their class.

But even if action is taken against Mrs Smith, has she really done any harm? In sending her clients into the night believing they had successfully lost weight she would, after all, have made them feel

better about themselves. In fact I have decided that whatever went on, far worse things happen in the rest of the apparently respectable slimming industry.

The weight-loss industry makes more than £1 billion a year out of reinforcing slender stereotypes on a world full of pear-shaped women. It relentlessly exploits our insecurities by encouraging us to believe that if we lose weight we will automatically become happier and more successful. It cunningly persuades us to buy books, magazines and endless food products that ultimately do us no good.

Rather like admirers of the emperor's new clothes, Elaine's members were happy with their results because they wanted to believe in them. It illustrates perfectly what willing and eager customers dieters can be. So I have today set in motion my own version. I have kicked the old scales in our bathroom until the needle moves satisfactorily to the left. And I have discovered that weight loss is all in the mind. Why, already I feel 15lb lighter...



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## Philip Howard



■ They may average out right, but some statistics seem less than vital

What egg does a statistician lay when (s)he is not laying statistics? Rage and incredulity among the statistical classes is one answer. This week's merger of the Central Statistical Office with the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys concentrates all official social and economic statistics at the Office for National Statistics. And there has been an agreeably unmathematical row about its name. Our number-crunching temple cannot be called Great British Statistics or Statistics UK without offending some paranoid nationalist minority. And the census-takers feel that their work includes other data, and even policy, and so should not be diminished by the unsexy label of mere statistics.

Statistics (take in computers) is the queen of the modern sciences, in the way that epic, theology and the classics were once. Like them, sums make a tool for answering some questions. Opinion surveys of voting intentions are often more accurate than the straw polls, hunch and a prayer with which we used to predict results of elections. Though it is gratifying when the polls get the result so wrong as they did at the last general election. Voting intentions are more slippery to measure than votes, and the explanations the pollsters make when they slip up on the uncountable are entertaining.

Statistics exist to condense large groups of allied facts into brief and compendious expressions suitable for discussion. But they need to be simple facts, and their answers are self-evident and boring. Winston Churchill set up the Central Statistical Office in 1941 to corral all the statisticians in Whitehall into one stable, and what cost a shilling then (5p) would cost more than a pound now. That is the kind of depressing fact that statistics are good at. The average house price then was well under £2,000. Today, according to the statisticians, and allowing for blips, the average price is around £63,000. Then there were 1.9 million private cars on the roads, and no petrol except on the black market. Today, alas, there are more than 20 million, and gridlocking. Then, a pint of bitter cost the equivalent of what today we inelegantly call four pence. Now, the average pint will set you back £1.49, though I do not think the statisticians can have visited Windsor Castle in their researches. Divorces now split at 160,000 a year. Then, they barely amounted to 7,000, though they introduced us to correspondent shoes worn by cads and divorce weekends in Brighton. A statistic to show how the world has improved is that then there were just 65,000 university students, while today there are 918,400.

But most important questions are less measurable than births, marriages, deaths and sales of motor cars. Probability theory was developed in England from gaming odds. And the traditional illustrative cases of such uncertainties are those of tossing a coin, rolling a die, and drawing a card from a pack. The best way of learning probability theory is by such British sports as backgammon, bridge and a day at the races. The British obsession with the National Lottery confirms the findings of the statisticians that as a nation we are bad at mathematics, unsound on probability, but wildly romantic about airy castles in the Coty Bravy.

That is why we need politicians and common sense as well as our dear statisticians. For we innately suffer from the misapprehension that a proportion is a small word for a part, and a parameter is a scientific kind of perimeter. Statisticians solve problems we did not know we had in a way we do not understand. They put their heads in the oven and their feet in the freezer, and report to us incredulous spectators that on average they feel just fine. Schoolchildren with calculators can perform miracles of number-crunching. But I think long-division of pounds, shillings and ounces would be a more useful introduction to our world of numbers.

So happy summing to our new Office for National Statistics. The odd statistic can add verisimilitude to an otherwise bald and unconvincing narrative. More does not always mean worse. With statistics, the more the merrier. But statistical explanations have no logical validity. Which is why, *pace* science fiction horror stories, a computer in charge of government or anything else would be even worse than our flawed human masters.



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## The sins of the father

We do not choose our parents, and yet, as one poor man found, we cannot dissociate ourselves entirely from them

Hark, yet again those familiar words of Ezekiel instantly convey something dark to come: "The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge." And for that matter, there is similar darkness from Hosea: "They have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind." Yes, but who are the "they" who are destined to eat the sour grapes, and who is it that is going to reap the whirlwind? We must tread warily, not least because the central figure in this picture is the one who is most innocent, and indeed the one who is most bruised by others. Let us see.

John Torode is a distinguished journalist who used to work at the *Guardian*, but now writes for the *Daily Mail*. His father died in 1980, and no doubt a loving and loved son shed tears. Nine years after that, however, when he was having lunch with a friend and the talk turned to a possible television project about undercover Soviet agents, Mr Torode shed very different tears, and shed them so copiously that more friends had to take him home. And when he got home — but let him take up his own story for a moment.

I suppose I was having a mini nervous breakdown. For the next thing I remember is sitting sobbing and shaking on a sofa at home, with my friend and my wife doing their best to comfort me. I was repeating the same phrases over and over again. I remember them well, though I have no conscious recollection of the events to which they refer. "It is over," I kept sobbing. "People used to come to our house at night to hurt us. But they can't hurt us any more."

But what was over? Who could no longer hurt us? What could Torode have been repressing all those years? As he asks, what horrors were buried away in his subconscious mind?

Go back to Ezekiel and to Hosea. I didn't put those quotations at the top of this column for nothing: Mr Torode has indeed had his teeth set on edge by many sour grapes, and has reaped a great deal of the whirlwind. But not a single word of unrighteousness clings to his mantle. For this is a man much more sinned against than sinning.

Because, you see, John Torode's father was a traitor. And John Torode's buried terror at that terrible truth was a terror so powerful that when it finally broke through the bands that had held him all these years it came close to killing him.

Do you remember the phrase "Moscow gold", which reverberated all through the years? It was batted about on both sides, half a reality (the anti-Communists), half a mirage (the Comms). The Communists were accused of getting their pamphlets and newspapers published thanks to subventions from the Soviet Union (a substantial sum would have been needed), and the Communists not only made a brazen denial of the accusers, but made "Moscow gold" a very clever joke. And it was only a very few years ago that one of the remaining hardliners announced that

that your predicament has two faces? And that the second face is far more terrible than your painful blow? You don't understand? I shall tell you: what did the children of the Holocaust think when they discovered that their fathers' job was to gas Jews, and that in many cases their fathers had done their job most meticulously?

What was it that the prophets said? Wasn't it something about the fathers eating sour grapes, to the shame and pain of the children's teeth that were set on edge, to say nothing about whirlwinds? No man volunteers to be born, and when he is born he cannot be sure that he is the kind of person he might wish to be. The only thing that is entirely in his own hands is his power to end his life. God forbid that John Torode should ever even consider such thoughts, but in his breakdown anything might have had the last and terrible answer.

We did not make our parents; our parents made us, and we are not to blame, however dark the blame becomes. If we don't like the parents we were born to, we substantially can't change them, although I suppose we can leave them.

I am tempted to say that John Torode's dreadful discovery could be much worse. What about — and, these days, there are more and more revealed — fathers who have ravished their infant children and continued to do so? But that is not fair; every man must shoulder his own burden, and in these murky waves it would be wicked to say "My father's sin was not as wicked as yours", though that might be obviously true.

Torode has another problem: how much of what his father did and said was true? But Torode knows better than we do, and we must take his father at his word.

And how did he make contact in Hitler's Germany? Well, the story he used to tell is

so bizarre that I am inclined to believe it. There was, he said, a tobaccoist's shop just off the Alexanderplatz in Berlin. He used to go there, identifying himself by a red rose in his buttonhole and carrying a copy of *The New Statesman and Nation*. He would ask for a particular brand of tobacco and would be told it was available in the back room. There he would strip, exchange bodybelts and then leave, ostentatiously bearing some obscure tobacco.

Torode's father was presumably worked by some kind of central figure: Torode seems to say it was "the mysterious guru of the Communist Party of Great Britain, Rajani Palme Dutt, who dictated policy on behalf of Stalin." This gives me an opportunity for something I have wanted to do for years. Again and again and again, people from the far Left and the far Right are agreed that Rajani Dutt was a great genius who made and used policy so brilliantly that Stalin himself would shake his head in wonder.

Now then, I once met Rajani Dutt and spoke with him for quite a time. I also heard several speeches he made, even one that he gave at my university. And hand on heart, I swear that Rajani Palme Dutt was one of the most stupid human beings that the Lord has ever put on this earth. Sentence after sentence of rubbish poured out of his mouth, and when, why and how, he came by the name of a genius I do not know. But at least I have got this off my chest at last.

To return to John Torode: I presume that he has come to terms with the dark shadow over his father, though I imagine that from time to time something jerks his deepest memory. Let no one think that what he went through was a minor tragedy. Nor can he take the easy route — he hasn't — of saying that there were men a hundred times more wicked, though it is certainly true. Think yourself for a moment into Torode's place; then stop doing that and bless your aches and pains, even your unhappinesses.

But there is one more aspect of this strange, powerful, even dangerous thought. What would we do if our world started to spin the wrong way? It is no use saying that it couldn't happen to us: this whole story is based on a man who thought it couldn't happen to him. And how many ordinary people, having digested Torode's bane, will go to bed tonight, but lie sleepless till dawn?

## Dressing down a princess

Sue Cameron addresses the diplomats' dilemma

It was the size of the royal dress bills that first raised questions about the Princess of Wales in the minds of some of Britain's most senior diplomats. "There was a real sucking in of breath over the dress bills Diana submitted for the Saudi tour she undertook with the Prince of Wales," recalls one diplomat. "The sum I heard mentioned was £80,000."

Now the Princess's elegance may cost her more dear than she dreamt at the time. After her divorce she will need all the allies she can find in the Civil Service if she is to realise her ambition of retaining a role as roving ambassador for Britain. This is what she is fighting for, as she made clear in her *Panorama* interview. The wishes of the Queen will be paramount, but the government machine will exercise crucial influence.

At the heart of any discussions over the Princess's future is the question of whether she is an important national asset who should be used to the full, or an unpredictable and potentially embarrassing figure who will yield diminishing returns for Britain.

Three top officials will be instrumental in determining her fate: Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary; Alex Allen, the Prime Minister's Principal Private Secretary; and Sir Robert Fellowes, Private Secretary to the Queen. This triumvirate will be in close touch with the Foreign Office and it is there that Diana can expect opposition. Senior Foreign Office officials will recall those awesome dress bills. The Pierrot-like figure of the Duchess of York may flit across their minds. They may think of the risks involved in formally appointing the Princess as an ambassador at large.

The dress bills were not an issue *per se*. The Foreign Office expects to pick up the tab for the kind of wardrobe a royal state visit requires. But the size of the bills was a shock. Even allowing for a change of clothing every day on the 10-day trip, the cost to the taxpayer worked out at £2,500 per outfit.

Some powerful politicians, including the Prime Minister, Douglas Hurd and Chris Patten are said to support the Princess. So do some in Whitehall who are impressed by her ability to twist foreigners around her little finger. "She is charming and glamorous, and her effect on male heads of state is remarkable," says one senior official. "Look at the Argentina visit and the impact she had on President Menem. I feel sure we could use her somewhere."

On the other hand, some of our most senior diplomats are Prince Charles's men. The list of Foreign Office people who have worked as deputy private secretary to the Prince of Wales includes David Wright, our new Ambassador in Tokyo, Peter Westmacott, our Counsellor in Washington, and Francis Cornish, the British trade commissioner in Hong Kong. With people of this rank so closely linked with her husband, it is hardly surprising if the Princess's hopes of becoming a roving ambassador excite little sympathy in the Foreign Office.

One key question is whom the Princess would represent. She could scarcely represent the Royal Family when she is known to be on bad terms with some of them. And it is hard to see how she could formally represent the Government. "Of course we would find ways to help her to fulfil an ambassadorial role if that was what was decided," said one official. "We're paid to be diplomatic. But I feel what a potential liability."

Diplomats — even those who support the Princess — all tend to see her as a loose cannon. The Princess's visit to Pakistan earlier this year is cited as one example of the pitfalls awaiting someone inexperienced in the niceties of diplomacy. Her host, Imran Khan, is a possible contender for the leadership of his country, which made the visit rather tactless, given that Britain is on friendly terms with the present Government.

The scandal surrounding the Princess also makes diplomats feel uncomfortable. They are all too aware that there are parts of the world where her kind of celebrity is simply not acceptable.

Diplomats disagree among themselves about the royal role in cultural diplomacy. Some believe that the deployment of the Royal Marines Band or *Britannia* has only a brief effect, and does not help exports at all.

Others are more enthusiastic. "It's easy to pooch-pooch the whole idea of cultural diplomacy and royal visits," said one senior figure, "but people in emerging economies do seem to be turned on by being invited aboard the Royal Yacht and meeting the Prince of Wales. He is a very effective promoter of British business. But to have the Princess as an ambassador, expressing views which might be taken to be those of the British Government, could be a disaster. Nobody wants to hear her personal views on international matters."

So the Princess may have to compromise, working informally with a body such as Unicef, or for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in much the way that Audrey Hepburn did. That way, Whitehall could distance itself from her should things go wrong in terms of diplomatic faux pas or some fresh scandal enveloping her.

"I suppose she could be asked to do the occasional trade visit," one senior diplomat conceded, adding wistfully: "A retail fashion week in Salt Lake City, perhaps?"

## Cast out

THREE of our most talented actresses have been denied the chance to lay down their singing talents on vinyl. Dame Judi Dench, Sian Phillips and Patricia Hodge, as well as other cast members of Stephen Sondheim's award-winning musical *A Little Night Music*, have just been told they cannot make a studio recording of their performance.

The news has angered and disappointed the actors — not least Dame Judi who won an Olivier Award for her performance. A studio had been booked and all necessary arrangements were in place when a fax arrived at the National Theatre from Sondheim himself, addressed to the staff.

"Dear Everybody," it began. "I know how eager we all were to make an album, but it appears that the problems are insuperable. Both the publishers and the lawyers who represent the show have a long string of reasons for not doing this particular record."

Not all of the cast are convinced by Sondheim's excuses, however, and stage whisperers suggest that he isn't too keen on our three ladies' singing talents. This is hotly denied, however, by the National. "Making a record is a very

complicated business," explains a helpful gentleman. "And there are already other recordings."

● A mind-boggling decree has come down from that fount of all political correctness, the Labour Party's headquarters at Watford



Dench: silenced

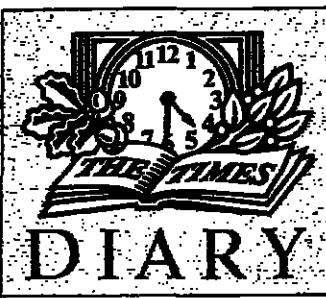
Road. The party is apparently no longer fielding "prospective parliamentary candidates" for what-ever constituency; they are simply to be called "spokespersons" for their constituency. A progressive press officer explains: "We thought the old title was outdated. Spokesperson is more user-friendly."

## No credit

HAVING upset the board of the Woolwich Building Society, the former chief executive, Peter Robinson, who left after allegations about his expenses, is now risking the wrath of his local milkman.

Robinson has gone into hiding and is communicating with the world only through solicitors. As a result, a number of pints are turning sour on the doorstep of his mock-Tudor home in Kent — and Unigate's Ray Bishop is unimpressed. He wants settlement of his £19,20 bill, and has left a curt note: "Payment would be appreciated by this Saturday, 6th April."

● Rather than pumping iron the night before the Boat Race, the Oxford crew will this evening descend on Soho House, a schmoezer's paradise surrounded by clip joints. There they will enjoy a private showing of *Broken Arrow*, a brainy movie starring John Trav-



olta. The House will also offer its finest beefburgers to beef them up for the big day.

## Purse-strings

BARONESS THATCHER's obsession with good housekeeping has dominated every aspect of her life — even her honeymoon in Madeira, if her daughter Carol's biography of Denis is to be believed.

Denis and Margaret were not the sort to sunbathe, and anyway the weather was too cold. So the newlyweds put their time to good use. "We stayed in the capital, Funchal, and did a sort of economic survey," explained Denis. "We went and looked at people making lace and other things and toured the Madeira Wine Company."

Their return trip was by boat. "It was a small boat and a hell of a crossing — terrible," he remem-

bers. "It took about three days and it certainly wasn't smooth. I wasn't seasick, but Margaret was, awfully." Carol comments: "My mother has hated boats to this day, fearing that anything smaller than the QE2 is liable to sink unless the conditions are duckpond calm."

## No, really

HAS my fellow diarist Alan Clark come over all goopy now that spring is in the air? In *The Spectator* before Christmas, he described the magazine's former Editor, Dominic Lawson, as a man of "loathsome sneering features, pastily glistening" which "peer



"Uh-oh, motorway madness"

slit-eyedly out at the reader."

The rag's owner, Conrad Black, was appalled and demanded an apology. Four months later, he appears to have got one — albeit grudgingly offered. In the Easter issue, Alan Clark describes Lawson as the "boyish and fresh-faced Editor of *The Sunday Telegraph*". That's better.

● Three fire-engines rushed to the RAF Museum at Hendon the other day to find the building evacuated and personnel in a state of panic. It proved to be a false alarm, activated by an errant hot-cross bun that had been left too long in a microwave.

## Losing face

THE HUGE rich Barclay brothers, owners of the Ritz, appear to have been taking a keen interest in the minutiae of administration at the Edinburgh offices of *The Scotsman*, a newspaper they happen to own. It is said that staff at the paper are well aware of the proprietors' whims and, in particular, their dread of publicity. But I can't believe the rumour that photographs of the reclusive twins have been discreetly removed from the paper's picture library.

P.H.S





## FROM THE CROSS

If thou be the Son of God... (Matthew xxvii, 40)

At Ruthwell, near Dumfries, stands a great stone cross dating back to the early 8th century. It is carved with an inscription from the contemporary Anglo-Saxon poem commonly known as *The Dream of the Rood*. The centre of the poem is the cross, a tree cut down to provide an instrument of torture for a criminal's execution, and which proves to be the tree on which "the young warrior... climbed the high gallows", the young warrior who was God Almighty.

The Cross itself suffers. The blood-drenched wood cries out, at one with what St Paul called "the groaning and travailing" of all creation, and yet the dreamer in the poem sets a tree of glory, resplendent with gold and encircled with light, the axle-tree around which the whole world revolves.

The anonymous Anglo-Saxon poet, whose words are carved on the Ruthwell cross, writes out of the paradox at the heart of Christian faith: the creator of all is discerned in a condemned criminal twisting and writhing in agony; Jesus crucified is Jesus glorified; the Cross of Christ is the power and the wisdom of God. In claiming that God's presence and purpose is known in the Cross of Jesus, the Christian Gospel challenges our pride of heart and mind with the ultimate truth of a God whose very being is love. This is a love which, as St Paul says, "bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things", a love which goes to the uttermost, reaching into the heart of darkness, and wrestling with the weight of evil, the principalities and powers, the demonic distortions of a fallen world.

Our world is a world in which abuses of power create appalling evils. From the Greek myth of Prometheus to the biblical stories of Adam in Eden, the temptations of power are a recurring theme in human sin. The common theme of the temptations of

Jesus in the wilderness is that they are all temptations to misuse power. Dictatorships, repressive ideologies, racists, even domestic tyrannies, crush and distort the human spirit. It is no accident that the biblical writers inveigh against idolatry — the giving of ultimate worth and value to that which is less than God.

Our world may not have many idols of carved wood and stone, but it has many idols of greed and self-seeking. Additions of every kind witness to how powerfully the chains of evil can bind the human spirit. Good Friday speaks of a God who is known not in power but in powerlessness, who lets Himself, in Dietrich Bonhoeffer's compelling words, "be pushed out of the world on to a cross". Only so is his love known; only so is He with us to save us.

The passers-by mocked Jesus nailed to the Cross. A God of power would demonstrate that power: "if thou be the Son of God, come down from the Cross". But the redeeming work of the God of love is achieved by bearing the weight of the world's evil, by going through and not evading the darkness, by God Himself freely choosing as one of us to know the absence of God and the annihilation of death, so that, as the Psalmist said, "if I go down to hell thou art there also".

It is the victory of that love over sin and death that the Christian Church celebrates at Easter, a victory by the Cross and not apart from it. It is this love of God in Jesus Christ, whose eternal life we are called to share, which is no less than the life of God's new creation. That is the reality which blows our human history open to a new and transforming life, something so mysterious that the women who stumbled upon it on the first Easter morning fled from the tomb in terror and awe.

## MEMORIAL IN COMMERCE

Ron Brown's death should intensify efforts to help Bosnia

When the aircraft carrying Ron Brown and his fellow-passengers crashed into the Hill of St John outside Dubrovnik, Bill Clinton lost a friend and America lost a skilled, if controversial, political conciliator. As chairman of the Democrats, Mr Brown was given large credit for President Clinton's election victory in 1992. As Commerce Secretary, he was respected as a vigorous negotiator, who increased domestic support for free trade through his success as a roving salesman for American exports.

What the world has lost may be more important. In Ron Brown, the Clinton Administration had a passionate and effective advocate of American leadership in post-conflict reconstruction, helping war-battered societies to rebuild their lives. Wherever a peace was signed, it was said, Ron Brown would be on the next flight out of Washington to see what could be done next — and also to ensure that American corporations got their full share of reconstruction contracts. He believed that the dynamism of American private enterprise was a valuable supplement to foreign policy, arguing that the rapid resumption of trade, agriculture and industrial production was an essential step to healing hatreds and rebuilding the habits of peace.

He brought to his purpose a keen eye for a deal. Whether in the West Bank, Ulster or Bosnia, he set out to convince the private sector that postwar reconstruction was not only good for peace, but good for profits. Business, impressed by his relentless use of political influence to clinch multimillion-dollar foreign contracts for American bidders, came on board.

On the fatal flight with him were the very people that Bosnia and Croatia need to rebuild their economies. The team included not only Commerce Department officials but bankers, engineers from companies that

helped Kuwait to repair its infrastructure after the Gulf War, makers of power generation equipment, men with expertise in water purification, dam-building, telecommunications and modular housing.

Mr Brown himself was en route from Tuzla, in northwest Bosnia, to make a speech to Croatian businessmen in Dubrovnik on American reconstruction policy. He was due in Sarajevo afterwards, to discuss the disbursement of \$200 million in US reconstruction aid. As Carl Bildt, who heads the international civilian operation in Bosnia, said in tribute, this was "a mission for the future, bringing business and bringing hope to the region".

This is the second fatal accident to befall senior American officials on missions of peace in the Balkans. The first was a crash in August last year on the treacherous Mount Igman road into Sarajevo which killed Robert Frasure, the State Department's envoy to former Yugoslavia. This galvanised the Clinton Administration. America's peace-broking effort was put into top gear and the result, within four months, was the Dayton accord.

The death of Mr Brown could all too easily act as a further brake on progress. International plans to assist in the rebuilding of Bosnia, technically ready to go ahead, have already been hampered by the failure of governments to come up with the required funds, and to wrangling between the different international organisations involved.

Next week in Brussels, governments will be asked to find a further \$1.2 billion for this year's reconstruction programmes. The most appropriate memorial for this charismatic Democrat wheeler-dealer would be for America, Britain and other donors to inject the same urgency into post-conflict rebuilding in Bosnia that America put into peacemaking after Mr Frasure's death.

## CHILDISH RITES

Teachers who rail against Ofsted demean their profession

Easter is the annual time for teaching union conferences: and that means the time for ritual abuse, hardened attitudes and serious deficiencies in the logic department. On Monday the National Union of Teachers will launch another assault on the Office for Standards in Education, the body charged with inspecting schools on behalf of parents, children and taxpayers. Earlier this week, the Association of Teachers and Lecturers' annual conference voted for Ofsted to be abolished.

Ofsted is unpopular because it tells some uncomfortable truths. When research shows that class sizes do not matter much, Ofsted publishes the findings rather than covering them up. As well as praising good teachers and teaching methods, the agency criticises poor ones. Parents are in favour of weeding out bad teachers. So are children; so is the Government; so is the Opposition and so are employers. The only people who think it is wrong to raise the standards of the teaching profession by getting rid of its least effective members are some teachers themselves.

It ought to be in the interest of most teachers to see the worst of their colleagues. On Chris Woodhead, who runs Ofsted, has estimated that out of the 440,000 teachers in England and Wales, 48,000 are very good or excellent, and 15,000 are incompetent. That means that 97 per cent of teachers are at least satisfactory and, many more are good than

are bad. Teachers are always complaining that their status in society is low: the removal of a mere 3 per cent of them might do wonders to the esteem in which the profession is held.

But the unions oppose the whole idea of separating good teachers from bad. Ofsted's plan to grade them from one (excellent) to seven (poor) and to deliver the results to their head teacher — not even to parents — has the profession up in arms. This is "judgmental", it is claimed. Well, of course it is. So is the marking of children's work, agreed to be the backbone of successful instruction.

The mentality of those who complain about Ofsted is that of a victim. To listen to these teachers, one might think that they are the most delicate of flowers, for whom any notion of accountability places an intolerable stress on their lives. Inspections are described as "punitive" and Ofsted is begged to bear in mind the effect of its visits on self-esteem and confidence. People who work in the private sector, who complain much less, lead far more precarious lives: they are liable to be made redundant even if their performance is good.

Teachers are in charge of this country's most precious resource (a word they love to use) and it is right to ask them why British schoolchildren are educationally so far behind those of our competitors. If Ofsted is asking this question, and trying to find answers, then it must be doing a good job.

## 'Chaos' of social security budget

From Mr Frank Field, MP for Birkenhead (Labour)

Sir, The £92.5 billion social security budget, which takes a third of all the revenue raised from taxpayers — more than that of the budgets of all government departments put together, bar health and education — is out of control.

Each year since the election the limits imposed on this budget by the Cabinet have been broken, often by as much as £3 billion, and the Government is unable to fully account for how the budget is spent in most of its major component parts.

In 1988, for instance, the Government introduced income support, which now accounts for £16.6 million of the budget. Every year since then the Auditor General has registered objections to the accounting for this expenditure.

Last month the £45 billion national insurance fund accounts were published (report, March 21). These, too, are queried by the Auditor General, who reports a level of error at 7.5 per cent and fraud at 6.6 per cent on unemployment benefit alone.

Evidence now before the Commons Social Security Select Committee points to a massive level of housing benefit fraud, particularly by landlords and their agents. Prompted by the committee, which is due to report on the subject in the middle of May, the Government is stepping up its campaign against such fraud, but this appears to consist, so far, of little more than helping the police in setting up road blocks to catch cheating cab and lorry drivers.

Meanwhile, a recent survey of large landlords by the London Boroughs Fraud Investigators Group has exposed a fraud rate of between 11 and 66 per cent in Haringey alone. Some of these landlords draw over £1 million a year in housing benefit; the total benefit taken from tenants across the country is only a matter of speculation, as the Government does not collect the data.

No major area of social security expenditure gains the unqualified approval of the auditors. If the DSS was a private company the chaos of its accounts would have led to its closure long before now. And this from a Government which likes to present itself as a tough custodian of taxpayers' money.

Yours faithfully,  
FRANK FIELD (Chairman,  
Social Security Select Committee),  
House of Commons,  
April 1.

## The RSPCA and sensible measures for animal welfare

From Mr R. Eyles

Sir, The Countryside Movement is hardly in a position to criticise the RSPCA for being undemocratic or unrepresentative (letter, March 29) when it has only 16 members itself — its Board of Directors — with absolute power to determine policy.

The movement says in its charter that its first task is to persuade large numbers of people to register their support. Attacking the RSPCA is an odd way of doing this, especially during a beef crisis caused by poor animal husbandry.

Yours faithfully,  
RONALD EYLES,  
21 Grove Terrace, NWS.

From Dr Charles Goodson-Wickes, MP, Chairman of the British Field Sports Society

Sir, The animal rights lobby is increasingly at odds with all those who

genuinely seek to promote sensible animal welfare measures.

It is thus to be welcomed that the Chairman of the RSPCA Council (letter, April 1) recognises that animal experiments are indeed necessary, under strictly regulated conditions, for the benefit of mankind.

Furthermore, the Chairman sees the need for control of foxes. The British Field Sports Society, who worked closely with the RSPCA to produce an agreed text for the Wild Mammals Protection Bill (1966), looks forward to continuing a constructive dialogue on this issue, with arguments based on fact rather than emotion.

Yours faithfully,  
CHARLES GOODSON-WICKES,  
Chairman,  
British Field Sports Society,  
59 Kennington Road, SE1,  
April 1.

## Mental health

From Professor Elaine Murphy

Sir, Dr Matt Muijen asserts (report, March 29) that mental health inquiries are mostly worthless. The inquiry by Mr John Spokes, QC (which started in 1987), into the homicide of Isobel Schwarz by Sharon Campbell in Bexley hospital, Kent, in 1984 led directly to the Government's determination to implement the Care Programme Approach, which became obligatory in 1991. This provides a written agreed plan for the after-care of patients by health and social-work professionals.

Protests by psychiatrists and mental-health nurses that they are being exposed unfairly to public criticism in recent inquiries into homicides by the mentally ill merely serve to fuel the public's suspicion that professionals prefer to keep their working practices hidden from scrutiny.

Inquiries are not set up only to prevent recurrences of such tragic events. They provide explanations for bereaved relatives and also for the families of mentally ill persons who may feel guilty as well as let down by the health and social services for a failure, as they see it, to provide sufficient protective care.

There is much to be learnt about the most cost-effective way to conduct inquiries after such cases occur. Not all require the involvement of lawyers, but the principle of providing an opportunity for public scrutiny of services after tragic events have occurred must be maintained.

Yours sincerely,  
ELAINE MURPHY (Chairman),  
City and Hackney Community  
Services NHS Trust,  
St Leonard's Primary Care Centre,  
Nuttall Street, NI,  
March 29.

## Chinook inquiry

From Captain A. R. H. Fairfield

Sir, The outcome of the fatal accident inquiry (report, March 22) at Paisley Sheriff's Court as to the cause of the tragic Chinook crash on the Mull of Kintyre in June 1994 appears to have reached a very different conclusion to that of senior RAF officers.

This is the second time these officers have heard the news that the evidence did not support a conclusion of "pilot error". The first time was from their own board of inquiry.

The standard of proof used by Sheriff Sir Stephen Young was that of "balance of probability". But guidance given in the RAF *Manual of Flight Safety* states: "Only in cases in which there is no doubt whatsoever should deceased aircrew be found negligent."

The Air Accidents Investigation Branch technical report could not ver-

ified a satisfying, comprehensive and convincing biological theory.

Sincerely yours,  
DENIS R. ALEXANDER  
(Head, T Cell Laboratory),  
The Babraham Institute,  
Babraham Hall,  
Babraham, Cambridge,  
March 30.

From Mr R. E. Weaver

Sir, Quentin Letts finds it odd "to meet a man who truly has no belief in God". Failing church attendances and a general non-religious demeanour in this country should tell him that Dawkins is part of the majority. He then expresses surprise that Dawkins "retains an appreciation of beauty", as if this were the monopoly of believers.

There seems to be an assumption that either we are all on the side of the angels or that, by the study of science, we become non-believers. Quentin Letts does not credit us in the "cheap seats" with having the ability to think for ourselves. He also seems to confuse religious tenets of behaviour and morality, as if the two were mutually exclusive.

A good number of us heathens can still look at a comet with awe and talk of the (poetic) soul without implying belief in any supernatural being.

Yours faithfully,  
R. E. WEAVER,  
37 Yeading Avenue,  
Rayners Lane, Harrow, Middlesex,  
April 3.

From Mr J. M. H. Wright

Sir, When Richard Dawkins is in Tennessee I hope he will use the support that state Senator David Fowler is offering. Fowler objects to Darwinism being taught as a "fact", but perhaps would allow it as a hypothesis. So it is, and so are all our explanations of the world. So also is all our knowledge of the world.

If with Fowler's encouragement our young people can be brought up to examine their elders' supposed facts about the world, including evolutionism and creationism, then he will have done well by them. They may recognise the partial nature of what the creationist's eye tells the creationist's brain. They may accept Karl Popper's criterion for the validity of knowledge — the possibility of its being tested, and its survival against test.

Epistemology may yet rule. OK?

Yours faithfully,  
J. M. H. WRIGHT,  
44 Broad Road, Sale, Cheshire,  
April 1.

From Dr Rosemary Rodd

Sir, If Mr Sissons (letter, March 29) or his friends are thinking of infiltrating my local RSPCA branch there are two points they might like to consider.

A typical branch committee member is not there for political reasons, but puts in about 20 hours per week of practical welfare work — checking prospective homes, fundraising, dog walking, animal fostering, helping at the subsidised animal clinic, etc, often in addition to full-time paid employment and family commitments.

Secondly, the RSPCA has always campaigned to promote respect for animals. If its traditional campaign had been more successful the countryside would not be facing the human and animal welfare disaster of the BSE panic.

Yours sincerely,  
ROSEMARY RODD,  
76 Sturton Street, Cambridge.

ify the pre-impact serviceability of ZD 576, and the RAF inquiry could not rule out malfunctions which would have left no physical evidence.

Such malfunctions were occurring on Mark II Chinooks at this time, and were not well understood. Boscombe Down test pilots suspended trial flights of these aircraft on the day before the accident.

The most tragic aspect for all those who lost loved ones is that they will probably never know the true cause of the accident. This must to an extent be the result of a decision to delay until 1997 fitting cockpit voice and flight data recorders, despite previous RAF Chinook crashes. It seems the RAF now requires the pilots to bear the consequences of that omission.

Yours sincerely,  
A. R. H. FAIRFIELD,  
Oak Cottages, The Wyne, Newsham,  
Richmond, North Yorkshire.

## Watchers of the sky

From Mr Robert Vincent

Sir, I agree with Mr Derek Duncan (letter, April 2) that comets are boring. Despite its claimed speed of 10,000 miles per hour, to my eye it moved no more than a couple of inches from late at night until early morning. Give me "shooting stars" any day.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT VINCENT,  
Dilly House,  
Wildern, Andover, Hampshire.

## Royal Armouries

From Mrs Gersil N. Kay

Sir, Considering the great importance of tourism worldwide it has been a brilliant move to make the extraordinary collection of the Royal Armouries available to view in the new museum in Leeds (report and picture, March 14). As well as at the Tower of London, visitors can now see this material in this interesting city, so important in British industrial archaeology.

Good show!  
Sincerely yours,  
GERSIL N. KAY  
(Chairman),  
Building Conservation International,  
1901 Walnut Street, Suite 902,  
Philadelphia, PA 19103,  
March 28.

## Need for reforms in the countryside

From the Chief Executive of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and others

Sir, The crisis in the beef industry has huge implications for the countryside as well as for consumers and farmers (Paul Heiney's article, "The average is £5", April 4).

Grazing animals play an irreplaceable role in the maintenance of the UK's landscapes and wildlife habitats. Cattle have a special significance in the conservation of hay meadows, hedged landscapes, permanent pasture, heath and moor, both on nature reserves and in the countryside generally. Any sustained collapse in the beef industry in the UK and other parts of Europe would have a huge impact on landscapes and also on the wildlife of the hills, uplands and grazed lowlands.

This crisis has brought into sharp focus the relationship between food and how it is produced. It is quite clear that for beef farming to recover, it must demonstrate that its products are wholesome, healthy and environmentally sustainable. British farmers are quite capable of doing this. This emphasises the need to further develop agriculture policies that are sensitive to the environment, especially those which support grazing landscapes. Top of the agenda must be the support and promotion of mixed and organic farming.

The Government needs to press for reforms to EU livestock policies to promote quality production, not just quantity, and to inspire consumer confidence. Farmers must be paid on an area basis, rather than per head.

Yours faithfully,  
BARBARA YOUNG,  
Chief Executive, Royal Society  
for the Protection of Birds,  
MARTIN DRURY,  
Director General, National Trust,  
SIMON LYSTER,  
Director General, The Wildlife Trusts,  
ROBIN PELLEW,  
Director, WWF-UK,  
FIONA REYNOLDS,  
Director, Council for the  
Protection of Rural England,  
The Royal Society for the  
Protection of Birds,  
The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire,  
April 4.

## Not alone

From Dame Barbara Cartland

Sir, I enjoyed the article in Weekend (March 23) on "Why we want to be alone". However, I am surprised to be listed among the "celebrity singles".

My two sons, who are my managers, have moved their London office to my home here in Hertfordshire, together with their secretary.

I have three secretaries of my own who deal with my books and huge amount of letters from around the world. I also have residential staff, including my chef who has been with me for over 30 years.

Far from being alone I am surrounded by my wonderful family and dogs, and all my staff.

Yours sincerely,  
BARBARA CARTLAND,  
Camfield Place,  
Hatfield, Hertfordshire,  
April 2.

## Girls behaving badly

From Miss J. Plucknett

Sir, For two successive weeks your listing for *The Girlie Show* in *Vision* magazine described it as "girls being laddish". As the programme involves females openly discussing sex and drinking alcohol, they are — in your opinion — attempting to escape their sexuality.

In an era of supposed equality between the sexes you seem to have adopted a narrow view of femininity. It presents an offensive stereotype of the behaviour of both men and women. Whatever your opinion of the programme, or its presenters, I feel you should respect the issues it is attempting to confront.

Yours faithfully,  
J. PLUCKNETT,  
Withers Road,  
1 Brittons, Paulston, Bristol, Avon,  
April 2.

## Called to account

From the Head of Tiverton High School

Sir, I notice that the Prime Minister has not yet let us know that it is his intention to have a secondary modern school in every town. I wonder why?

Yours faithfully,  
ROGER LAMBERT, Head,  
Tiverton High School,  
Bolham Road, Tiverton, Devon,  
April 3.

## Ups and downs

From Mr R. Vaughan-Davies

Sir, Surely the definitive judgment on averages (letters, March 25, 29) was delivered by the club porter who, when asked what the average tip was, is said to have replied: "The average is £5," adding thoughtfully, "but most gentlemen give more."

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD VAUGHAN-DAVIES,  
Little Paddock,  
Plough Lane, Christleton, Chester,  
March 29.

Business letters, page 27

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.







BITUARIES

RONALD BROWN

Ronald Brown, United States Secretary for Commerce and former chairman of the Democratic Party, died in an air crash near Dubrovnik, Croatia, April 3 aged 54. He was born in Washington on August 1, 1941.

INSUMMATE deal-maker, said as smart as his slickly tailored suit. Ron Brown was one of the most able political insiders in Washington. He was a close friend of President Clinton and a major architect of his election victory. But almost from the moment he was rewarded with a place in the Clinton Cabinet his dealings became the focus of scrutiny and, as Secretary of Commerce, Brown found himself a particularly susceptible target of Republican attack.

Accused of accepting a \$700,000 bribe from a Vietnamese businessman to help in ending the US embargo against Vietnam, he was soon cleared by the Justice Department than a fresh charge was laid. This time he was alleged to have received \$400,000 from a consulting firm which he had co-owned, but for which he had done virtually no work. President Clinton resisted Republican demands for Brown's dismissal, but Attorney-General Janet Reno appointed a Special Counsel last July to conduct a criminal investigation into his financial affairs. The inquiry was still going on at the time of his death.

Yet despite the blight of financial scandal, Brown was hailed by business leaders as one of the most effective Commerce Secretaries ever. This position — often seen as a water cooler post for loyal but plodding workhorses — was, to the surprise of those who knew the commanding but charm-mongering Brown, his first choice. Nursing an ambition for corporate power, he saw it as a way of getting to know company chief executives.

Brown brought the somewhat moribund Cabinet department to life. He recruited sharp, aggressive policymakers and, concentrating resources on US export promotion, set up a "war room" to monitor emerging markets. He was an indefatigable traveller, heading frequent delegations of leading American executives on overseas trips to push for contracts and bring down trade barriers. In 1994 he was the first US Cabinet Minister to visit Belfast on official business, heading a delegation at an investment conference. He continued to work to rebuild the Ulster economy during the IRA ceasefire and it was partly as a result of this success that the President sent him on the mission to the former Yugoslavia. It was here that he met his death.

Ronald Harmon Brown grew up in New York's Harlem district where his father — who was later to become an official in the Roosevelt Administration — managed a hotel. It was here that Brown first acquired his taste for the quick deal. Already as a 10-year-old boy he was trading the autographs of celebrities, the black entertainers, politicians and sports stars, who swirled through the lobby of his father's hotel.

Though his parents were both graduates of Howard University, the black institute of higher learning in Washington, Brown was exclusively educated at a series of predominantly white private schools, and went on to Vermont's elite Middlebury College. Here he was invited to become a member of a student fraternity whose charter banned blacks. He joined — on condition that he got full rather than associate membership — and the fraternity was forced to break with its national chapter.

After graduating with a degree in political science in 1962, Brown joined the US Army, serving in Korea and rising to the rank of captain. He returned to New York four years later and, while studying law at St John's University, earned his living as a social worker for the national Urban League, the inner-city lobby that was an important component of the US civil rights movement.

In 1973 Brown moved to Washington, where he became a spokesman for the league. At a time when the organisation still had considerable political influence, it was to prove a crucial turning point in his career. Within five



years he had become second-in-command of the Urban League, and Senator Edward Kennedy had asked him to act as deputy manager of his 1980 presidential bid to displace Jimmy Carter as the Democratic nominee. Although Kennedy's campaign failed, Brown's management of the California primary, which Kennedy won, earned him the plum position of chief counsel to the Senate Judiciary Committee. He was the first black to hold such a post, and went on to become Kennedy's own general counsel and staff director.

Brown was now playing for high political stakes. In 1982 he was made deputy chairman of the Democratic National Committee, holding the post for three years before, pleading the need to make more money, he became a partner in Patton, Boggs and Blow, a Washington law firm well known for its lobbying influence. Brown added such companies as Sony and American Express to the firm's already wealthy client list. He also found himself advising such controversial clients as "Baby Doc" Duvalier.

His reputation as a subtle negotiator and conciliator grew, and in 1988 he managed the potentially divisive Democratic National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. Brown succeeded in soldering the relationship between Jesse Jackson and Michael Dukakis and prevented a split in the party. His reward, the following year, was election to an overwhelming margin to the chairmanship of the Democratic National Committee — he was the first black man to hold such a post in a major American political party.

"Let me speak frankly," he said in his acceptance speech, "I did not run on the basis of race, but I will not run away from it. I am proud of who I am and I am proud of this party, for we are truly America's last best hope to bridge the divisions of race, religion, and ethnicity."

Although some feared that Brown's long-standing friendship with Jesse Jackson, for whom he worked in the 1984 and 1988 campaigns, would steer the party to the left, this concern proved unfounded. His efforts to draw the fissiparous Democrats towards the political centre were largely responsible for the party's return to the White House in 1992. It was a debt which President Clinton, not averse to dismissing members of his Cabinet in times of trouble, never forgot.

Ron Brown is survived by his wife, and by a son and a daughter.

SIR PETER WATKIN WILLIAMS

Sir Peter Watkin Williams, former overseas judge, died on March 26 aged 84. He was born on July 8, 1911.



AT LEAST once in his life, Peter Watkin Williams made headlines. This was when, as Chief Justice of Malawi in 1969, he resigned, together with three other High Court judges, in protest against a change in the judicial system. This judicial walkout followed the passing by the Malawi legislature of the Local Courts Amendment Act. The Act empowered the country's indigenous, traditional courts not just to try murder cases but to impose the death penalty without allowing the defendants the right of appeal to the High Court. President Hastings Banda considered this step necessary because those accused of witchcraft murders were too often being acquitted through legal technicalities.

But the four British judges, all working under contract in the freshly independent country that had previously been Nyasaland, made it clear in a resignation statement that they could not accept this new departure. The cause of justice, they said, would not be adequately safeguarded.

His strong stand on a point of principle was one of which Watkin Williams's forebears would have approved. Born near Honiton, Devon, he was the son of a prominent solicitor, Robert Thesiger Watkin Williams, who became a Master in Chancery at the Royal Courts of Justice, and grandson of a judge and former Liberal MP of the Gladstone era.

while studying law in his spare time, before being called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in 1935.

He then practised in Shanghai where he met up again with a young diplomat, William Hayter (later, as Sir William Hayter, Ambassador to Moscow), who had been a Cambridge contemporary and was to become a lifelong friend.

When the Japanese were threatening Shanghai, he left to join his elder sister and brother-in-law in Rhodesia, where he was commissioned into the Army. He subsequently served in the Mediterranean, where at one time he was stationed in the Greek islands. But when he was demobilised in 1946 with the rank of captain he had managed to survive the war without seeing enemy action.

Commission territories of Basutoland (now Lesotho), Bechuanaland (now Botswana) and Swaziland, where he was also president of the Court of Appeal throughout the region. Knighted in 1963, he retired from the Colonial Legal Service in 1965, at the relatively early age of 54.

Returning to Britain, he settled back into country life near his old home in Devon, presiding from time to time over various tribunals until he was uprooted again two years later by an appointment as a High Court judge in Malawi. He was promoted to the position of Chief Justice from the High Court Bench.

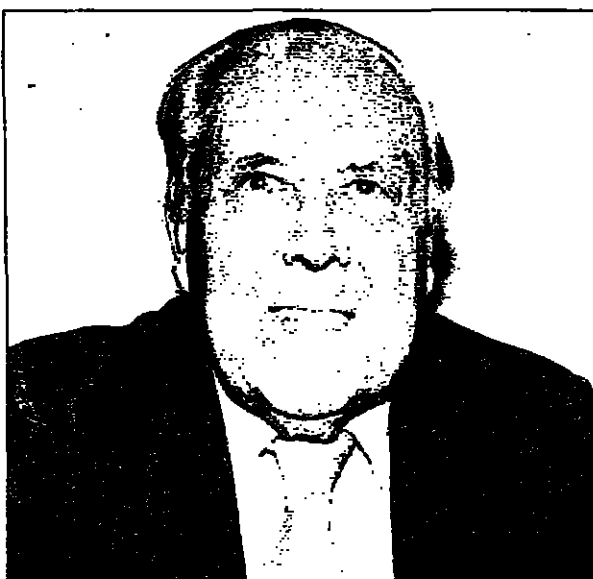
Watkin Williams's resignation in 1969 did not quite mark the end of his career. In 1974 he was made an Occasional Chief Justice for the South Atlantic, presiding at intervals over trials in such distant courts as St Helena, Tristan da Cunha and the Falkland Islands. It was the Falklands War which brought this phase of his career to an end. Although he was invited to return after the fighting, Watkin Williams, by now 71, found the islands so much changed that he did not relish the prospect.

A good-looking, if fiery, Celt, Watkin Williams was also capable of great charm. He was essentially a countryman — an accomplished fly fisherman and knowledgeable naturalist who was also passionately fond of playing and watching cricket. During his one year at Cambridge he helped to found the Cambridge Sou'westers, a cricket XI which toured the West Country before the Second World War. He also belonged to Somerset County Cricket Club.

Peter Watkin Williams is survived by his wife Jane, whose family had lived near his own old home in Devon and whom he married in Hong Kong in 1938, and by two daughters.

PAT COTTER

Pat Cotter, classicist, bridge player, crossword compiler and croquet champion, died on March 8 aged 91. He was born on September 24, 1904.



A SENIOR member of the Classics department at St Paul's School, Patrick Cotter combined his scholarly interests with an unusual combination of sporting pursuits. The crossword compiler for the *Financial Times* and bridge columnist for that newspaper and for *Country Life*, Cotter also excelled at marginally more strenuous sports — cricket, golf and croquet. He was one of the best players in the world of that last, most subtle game.

Edmond Patrick Charles Cotter — always known as Pat — spent almost his entire working life at St Paul's School. He was born in Ireland, the son of a soldier. St Paul's was then in West Kensington (it is now in Barnes), and Cotter joined it as a new boy from its preparatory school, Colet Court, in September 1917. He was awarded an open scholarship in Classics to Christ Church, Oxford, in 1923, where he won the Gaisford Prize. After a short spell teaching at Sherborne, he returned to St Paul's as a member of staff in 1928, and remained there until his retirement in 1965 — barring his service as squadron leader in the RAF during the war. After the war he decided to brush up on his Classics, and took a second

degree, achieving the only first awarded in that subject to external students at London University that year. Generations of Paulines benefited from Cotter's breadth of scholarship and bonhomie, which he combined with a polished, urbane manner. He made Greek his speciality and his knowledge of the language and its nuances was encyclopaedic. His Greek prose and verse compositions were highly idiomatic and creative. In the best traditions of the art, and he had a remarkable memory, being able to quote long passages from Greek tragedy. In 1947 he was joined at the school by William Walker Cruickshank and together they built up one of the most formidable classical departments of any public school. He was president of one of the games houses.

Retirement for Cotter meant no diminution in his labours, and he built up a second career as a writer. He was an excellent bridge player (he often played a rubber with his boys during tutorial periods or lunch breaks), and represented Britain before the war, winning the 1934 and 1938 Gold Cup. He now became the bridge correspondent of the *Financial Times* and *Country Life*, and he wrote about the game until his death. He began composing crosswords in the late 1960s, putting together a team of three compilers — himself, a civil servant and a schools inspector — who would each construct two a week. He found that his years of composing Greek verse gave him confidence in making up clues — "the same kind of mental gymnastics," he said. "His favourite clues were 'Skulduggery in Sussex — Pildown', and a more *risqué* one he regretted he could never use: 'Not to be expressed in a four-letter word — Ineffable'. The management of the *Financial Times* asked him to make his crosswords easier than those which appeared in *The Times*, as they felt that their readers did not possess the same far-reaching knowledge. Cotter regretted this decision, which he at least felt was based on an inaccuracy.

Cotter also liked chess and snooker. But his other real sporting passion was croquet which he had played since the age of seven, when he was given his first set, but which he took up properly only after a minor injury had put paid, temporarily, to his golf. He became one of the postwar croquet greats, an excellent tactician who rarely had to hit the ball hard and who preferred a "touch" approach to the game. He won the British open double ten times, the British open three times, and the President's Cup six times. In 1963 he captained the English team which played a series of Test matches against Australia and New Zealand. He was the author of *Tackle Croquet This Way* (1960).

His wife Yvonne, whom he married in 1934, predeceased him. There were no children.

RICHARD HILL

Richard Hill, historian of the Sudan, died in Oxford on March 21 aged 95. He was born on February 18, 1901.

RICHARD HILL was the last and arguably the best of the gifted and industrious amateur historians which service in the Sudan seemed to produce in profusion. Like most of them he had many of the characteristics of an expatriate.

Although born in Wiltshire, Richard Leslie Hill was brought up partly in New Zealand and, like others of his generation, felt himself a citizen of the world. He was recruited to the Sudan Civil Service in 1927 and worked mainly in the railways until 1945, when he retired after war service to teach history in the then University College of Khartoum.

In 1949 he went to Durham as a senior lecturer, retiring in 1966, after which he held visiting appointments at California, Simon Fraser, and Ahmadu Bello universities. In 1970 he returned to Oxford, which remained his base until his death.

Even before his first arrival in the Sudan, Hill began the researches that were to occupy both his leisure time and his working life in Durham and Oxford. In the 1920s there were huge gaps even in the general reference works that today are taken for granted. Filling them was a task ideally suited to Hill's temperament and ability: tireless, painstaking, and with apparently infinite patience, Hill compiled and published *A Bibliography of the Sudan* in 1939 and *A biographical dictionary of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan* in 1951, both still essential works.

His most important work of narrative history, *Egypt in the Sudan, 1820-1881*, followed in 1959. This and a group of shorter pieces departed from the received view that that period had been one of unredeemed misery. The book certainly succeeded in explaining the Turkishyya in the context of the late Ottoman provincial administration. In a retirement of exemplary productivity Hill concentrated his researches on the role of Europeans in the Sudan and the relations between them and the Sudanese. *Slatin Pasha and Sudan transport*, both appeared in 1965. *On the frontiers of Islam in 1970*. *The opening of the Nile Basin in 1974*. *The Europeans in the Sudan, 1834-1878* in 1980. *The Sudan memoirs of Carl Christian Giegler Pasha in 1884*, and, astonishingly, *A Black corps d'elite*, an account of the Sudanese battalion in Mexico, in 1995.

It does not belittle this achievement to view as Hill's greatest contribution the establishment of the Sudan Archive at Durham University. Again, the task was suited to the man. In the 1920s he had the vision to recognise that the private papers of British officials and others who had served in the Sudan should be collected and made safe for future historians — and he had the industry to do the work himself. This was a labour of love, but the labour was prodigious and thankless, involving not only long correspondence with potential donors but also listing, cataloguing, copying, and all without financial help or technical assistance. The result was the creation of a splendid resource for the study of the Sudan and its neighbours, one that can only



grow in importance with time. His was an achievement that Durham recently recognised with an honorary doctorate. In retirement at Oxford, Hill became a familiar figure, sought out by three generations of historians and others interested in the Sudan. At Banbury Road, then Osberton Road, and finally at St John's Home, morning coffee might stretch to lunch and even afternoon tea; Hill was a great and generous storyteller. To the bright-eyed student his appeal combined personal knowledge, understanding of human nature, a complete lack of self-importance and a genuine interest in others and their work.

He was, in the best sense, a man of the world; he loved Italy and France, balanced criticism of America and Germany with delight in Germans and Americans, sympathised with Egypt and loved the Sudanese. Devoutly Christian, he admired Islam, was perplexed by atheism, but saw humour even in religion; the church in which he was married he called "the ugliest in Christendom". His industry long ago became legend; he thought nothing of burrowing in Turkish archives in his seventies and tramping around Mexican battlefields in his eighties. He seemed embarrassed by admiration; critics he dismissed with kindness; his modesty was a candle to his merit.

Hill's wife Juliana, whom he married in 1937, died in 1988. He is survived by their four daughters.

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**ON THIS DAY**

**April 5, 1939**

The new boy king also came to a violent end: he was killed 19 years later in a revolt which led to the end of the monarchy in Iraq.

**KING GHAZI KILLED**

King Ghazi of Iraq died early yesterday from injuries received in a motor accident late on Monday night. His four-year-old son has been proclaimed as King Faisal II under the Regency of his maternal uncle the Emir Abdul Ilah.

A memorial service at Mosul gave rise to a riot in which the British Consulate was attacked and set on fire and the British Consul, Mr. Monck-Mason, was murdered by the mob.

**ON THIS DAY**

**April 5, 1939**

The new boy king also came to a violent end: he was killed 19 years later in a revolt which led to the end of the monarchy in Iraq.

**MOURNING PROCESSIONS**

King Ghazi's death is being mourned with great intensity by the emotional people of Baghdad. Since early morning processions of people weeping and beating their breasts have been passing through the main streets. All other traffic is stopped, shops are closed, and the normal life of the city is at a standstill. The late King had certainly captured the affections of his people. He was a fearless horseman, an enthusiastic airman who piloted his own machines, and an ardent motorist with a passion for speed, and his physical courage was beyond any doubt.

The new King Faisal II had an English nurse since infancy.

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